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Inter-Arab Affairs

'Abd-al-Majid on West's Stand on Israel, Iraq

NC1401134193 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1314 GMT 14 Jan 93

[Text] Cairo, 14 Jan (MENA)—Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid expressed his profound regret over the air raid carried out by coalition aircraft against Iraq last night. He said the Arab states can only wonder about the position of the three big states—the United States, Britain, and France—on Israel's continuing refusal to implement the resolutions of international legitimacy, the latest of which is Resolution 799 calling for the return of the Palestinian deportees to their homes.

Speaking at a news conference today, Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid said it was possible to resolve the differences between Iraq and the West through further dialogue between them, noting that there is still a chance of a peaceful settlement to end the tension in the region.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid stressed that the Arab League has no authority over the member states, noting that each country has sovereignty over its own territory. He called on Iraq to end practices reported by Iraqi media that Kuwait is Iraq's 19th governorate, emphasizing that such remarks greatly harm the Iraqi position. He added that the Arab states possess enough financial and manpower capabilities to make an important and constructive contribution to world peace and stability.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid discussed Iran, saying that it is a Muslim state and that the Arab states seek to establish relations of cooperation and friendship with it. He added that if Iran decides to coexist with the region's countries, the latter would deal positively with it. He said that the Arab League's position on Iranian practices toward the islands of Abu Musa, Tunb al-Kubra, and Tunb al-Sughra is clear.

Concluding his press conference, Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid stressed that the question of the Kuwaiti prisoners and missing persons is the subject of great Arab League interest because it is a humanitarian issue. He called on the Iraqi Government to continue its efforts to solve this problem, noting that Iraq has shown a desire and expressed readiness to settle this problem to his personal envoy, Ambassador Rashid Idris, who will resume his mission soon.

Kuwaiti Envoy Blames Iraq for Coalition Strike

NC1401151493 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1354 GMT 14 Jan 93

[Text] Cairo, 14 Jan (MENA)—Ambassador 'Abd-al-Muhsin al- Ji'an, Kuwait's permanent Arab League representative, has said that last night's air strike against Iraq took place because of the Iraqi regime's repeated violations of Kuwait's international borders and its provocations against UN forces on the border.

Al-Ji'an welcomed any international or Arab measure to establish international legitimacy and implement the UN Security Council and Arab resolutions.

He noted that the Iraqi regime's incursions are considered a violation of the cease-fire resolution and a violation of the Arab League Charter. No Arab state has the right to violate the borders of another state, he said, adding that what the Iraqi regime did is considered a violation of the sovereignty, borders, and independence of an Arab League member state.

* Maghreb States Respond to Expulsion of Arabs

93P40094A London AL-HAYAH IN Arabic 8 Jan 93 p 7

[Excerpts] Tunis, AL-HAYAH—The Pakistani Government's decision to expel the Arab "volunteers" who participated in the Afghan war has caused cautious satisfaction in the Maghreb capitals, especially Tunis and Algiers.

The Maghreb governments showed a clear uneasiness about the gathering of hundreds of their citizens in the Pakistani city of Peshawar after the end of the war in Afghanistan. They considered them to be reserves for their local fundamentalist movements—especially the Algerian Government, which believes that the "Afghans" are the backbone of the armed operations that daily target the police and the army.

Informed sources explain that the calculations that indicate the existence of close to 2,000 Arabs in Peshawar who participated at the side of the Afghan mojahedin in ousting the Soviet forces are far from the truth. They affirm that the Maghreb governments' information points to their number as being larger than that and that they cannot be counted because most of them do not carry personal documents, thanks to their being able to escape quickly to Afghanistan over the porous, open borders between it and Peshawar. [passage omitted]

The Pakistani Government has promised the concerned Arab governments that it will deliver to them lists of the names of their citizens who will be expelled. However, informed sources told AL-HAYAH that the Tunisian and Algerian embassies had not received anything to date.

Maghreb circles are inquiring whether the Pakistani authorities will deliver the expelled individuals to their countries of origin or whether they will be left the freedom to choose their own destination. The question is one that causes embarrassment, because the majority will choose flight to Europe or to Sudan.

It is feared that the Pakistani Government is not able to control the activities of the Arab citizens within its territories after they join the networks of Pakistani funndamentalist groups, which are out of the authorities' reach.

Informed sources state that contacts have been initiated between the concerned Maghreb governments and the

Pakistani Government to look into this question and eliminate the uncertainty that still envelopes it.

The Algerian interior minister warned—in a briefing that he gave in the closed sessions of the council of Arab interior ministers at the beginning of the week in Tunis—of the danger of numerous radical elements returning from Afghanistan. He said, "We did not become aware in time that one day some of those people (the radicals) would mobilize and use the weapons with which they fought the Communists in Afghanistan against their own Muslim people." He added, "We were playing with fire."

It is said that the government of Nawaz Sharif seized files and hideouts in June, which held important information about those active in the Maghreb fundamentalist movements who are conducting military training in the Afghan mojahedin bases in Peshawar. [passage omitted]

Islamic Affairs

Mecca Committee Set Up on Indian Acts in Kashmir

BK1201154793 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 12 Jan 93

[Text] The Muslim World League has set up a committee headed by its chief Shaykh 'Abd-al-Aziz Bin-'Abdallah Bin-Baz which will inform the leaders of Arab countries and other Islamic nations about Indian atrocities in occupied Kashmir. The decision was made at a meeting of the league in the holy Mecca today. The committee will consist of the league's secretary general, the Azad Kashmir prime minister, and a former president of Sudan. The committee will assess the factors behind the demolition of the Babri Mosque and the violence against Indian Muslims by Hindu fanatics.

Palestinian Affairs

U.S. Criticized for 'Crude Muscle-Flexing'

TA1401174493 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 14 Jan 93 p 9

[Editorial: "The Raids on Iraq—An Unjustified Aggression"]

[Text] The air raids on Iraq by United States aircraft and its western allies are no more than an absolutely unjustified aggression and crude muscle-flexing against a nation that had emerged bleeding from a destructive war and for whom nothing had remained except its dignity and insistence to exercise its will as much as the pervading grim conditions permit.

Iraqi-Western relations, particularly the U.S. relations, remained tied in the stage following the so-called Desert Storm war to the knot of the victor and the vanquished. The United States wanted—through the UN Security Council, and sometimes outside it—to impose debilitating conditions on Iraq that undermine its sovereignty and territorial integrity. The United States partitioned northern and southern Iraq where the rebels wreaked havoc. It banned the flight of Iraqi planes in Iraq's airspace without paying heed to international laws and charters. In short, Iraq has been the West's foremost concern despite the fact that the world, under the new international order, is being inundated with wars and violations of UN principles and human rights.

This U.S.-Western policy, which closes one eye to Serbian crimes in Bosnia-Hercegovina and opens the other eye widely when Iraq moves its missiles to defend its airspace, loses its credibility when the interval between Iraqi action and the U.S. punitive reaction is only a matter of hours. It has become clear to the entire world that this policy is incompatible with objectivity and fairness because it uses a double standard and assesses events and behavior according to its whims, moods, and interests.

If we take the issue of the Palestinian deportees and Security Council Resolution 799, calling on Israel to return the deportees, and compare the zeal and vigor in implementing the UN-U.S. resolutions against Iraq with the foot-dragging and procrastination in implementing Resolution 799, then the difference becomes clear to everyone.

We hope now that the United Nations and the United States, the power with the most influence on the international organization, will find an effective mechanism for implementing the Security Council resolution. At the same time, we also hope that the United States will not deprive the Iraqi people of the right to live and repair what has been destroyed by the war. Aggression, imposing views, and humiliating nations will not last long in an era in which the most powerful empires may collapse if they do not rely on the standards of right, justice, and respect for the will of nations.

Fatah Condemns Allied 'Aggression' Against Iraq

LD1401184293 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 14 Jan 93

[Statement by the Fatah Central Committee on 14 January; place not given—read by announcer]

[Text] We received with great concern news of the U.S.-British-French brutal aggression on sister Iraq and its militant people who are standing fast in the face of the blockade and the aggression. This aggression clearly indicates the continuation of the hostile policy of the states of the western coalition against Iraq, its sovereignty, and the inviolability of its territory and its unity. This aggression is inconsistent with the resolutions of international legitimacy [the United Nations] and international law which adhere to Iraq's unity, land and people, and reject no-fly zones which were used as an opening for the new aggression.

The policy of double-standards followed by the coalition forces in dealing with Middle East issues serves the hostile Israeli policy of obstructing the implementation of the resolutions of international legitimacy relating to the just cause of our Palestinian people, particularly the latest UN Security Council resolution 799 concerning the repatriation of the deportees. This is happening while they are carrying out their aggression against Iraq despite the UN Security Council's rejection of this decision.

The Fatah movement, with its leadership, cadres and members, expresses the position of our Palestinian people in condemning this aggression, reaffirming the pan-Arab stand in support of the steadfast Iraqi people, and demanding that the unjust blockade imposed on sister Iraq be lifted.

PLO Seeks Stop to 'Unjust Siege' of Iraq

LD1401193393 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 14 Jan 93

[Statement by official Palestinian spokesman on 14 January; place not given—read by announcer]

[Text] The U.S.-British-French coalition forces continued their aggression against fraternal Iraq on the pretext of implementing the UN Security Council resolutions in an attempt to prevent Iraq from exercising its national sovereignty over its own territory. This is considered to be interference in Iraq's domestic affairs.

The PLO follows the aggression of the coalition forces against Iraq with extreme concern, and, proceeding from the premise of its desire for peace and security in the area, strongly condemns this aggression which confirms the double-standard in the application of UN Security Council resolutions by the coalition forces at a time when Israel's defiance of all the UN Security Council resolutions concerning Palestine—especially the recent Resolution 799 relating to the Palestinian deportees—has been overlooked.

We in the PLO appeal to all peace-loving forces in the world at large to move immediately to put a stop to this aggression and to the unjust siege imposed on the fraternal people of Iraq and on the unity of its territory and people.

PLO, Fatah Central Committee Denounce Bombing

JN1401184993 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1820 GMT 14 Jan 93

[Text] The PLO has condemned the allied aircraft bombing of Iraq under the pretext of implementing Security Council resolutions, deeming this an attempt on the part of allied forces to prevent Iraq from exercising its national sovereignty on its soil.

In a statement by an official Palestinian spokesman, the PLO said it is looking at the allied aircraft bombing of Iraq with concern. This confirms the one-sided view of the resolutions of international legitimacy and its implementation by the allied forces, at a time when Israeli defiance of all international resolutions on Palestine, especially the recent Resolution 799 on the Palestinian deportees, are ignored.

The Fatah Central Committee also issued a statement, saying: The policy of double standards being practiced by the allied forces in addressing Middle East issues serves Israel's aggressive policy in obstructing the implementation of the resolutions of international legitimacy related to the just cause of the Palestinian people, the most recent of which being Resolution 799 concerning the return of the deportees—at the time when they have carried out their aggression against Iraq—despite the Security Council's rejection of this Israeli measure.

The Fatah movement stressed its support for the people of Iraq, calling for breaking the blockade imposed on them.

Fatah Issues Intifadah Anniversary Statement

JN1501090293 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1800 GMT 14 Jan 93

[Statement issued by the Fatah Central Committee "on the 28th anniversary of the Palestinian armed revolution and 61st month of the intifadah"; date not given]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] O Fatah revolutionaries, O Palestine revolutionaries, O our great people: Your revolution and movement is forcing its way with firmness, determination, and faithfulness after it destroyed—over a full year of bloody and bitter conflict on the fronts of comprehensive jihad and struggle—all shackles of isolation and attempts of liquidation concocted by imperialist and Zionist circles against it and against the PLO, the sole, legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. The PLO represents the spiritual homeland of our people and the headline of an independent Palestinian entity, and safeguards our Palestinian people's inalienable legitimate rights, including their right to repatriation, self-determination, and the establishment of an independent Palestinian state on Palestinian soil with Jerusalem as its capital.

Our movement, which has realized the nature of the conflict and its balances, was able to wage the diplomatic risk through the compulsory passage and under unjust conditions. Meanwhile, our movement is armed with counterplans to the plots aimed at liquidating the PLO and obliterating the rights of the Palestinian people. Despite all (?shackles) accompanying this plot, our movement was able to safeguard the PLO and break Arab and international isolation in the homeland in which it maintained the heroic intifadah and escalate armed struggle against the Zionist occupation army, affirming the (?integration) of the popular war which it is waging through all its political, military, economic, diplomatic, and negotiating dimensions. Meanwhile, our movement has reinforced the heroic steadfastness of our kinsfolk in the occupied territory and embodied our firm

national unity. This unity not only reiterates the unity of the revolution factions, but also the eternal unity of our Palestinian people inside and outside—unity which imperialism and Zionism are trying to undermine.

Our national unity has been reinforced in the brave confrontations with the occupation army and in the meetings held with the Palestinian factions, as expressed by the recent meetings in Tunisia of the Palestinian leadership under the chairmanship of brother Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], president of the state of Palestine. The leadership welcomed the presence of the leadership delegation from the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, and the Islamic Jihad, and the Khartoum meeting between Hamas and Fatah under the sponsorship of brothers Hasan al-Turabi and Abu-'Ammar. [passage omitted]

Talking about the settlement process first requires the implementation of UN Resolution 799 and the immediate return of the deportees to their homeland and homes. It also requires laying down foundations for the settlement process in harmony with the PLO's effective role in this process. What this requires, namely, is the restoration of U.S.-Palestinian dialogue and an effective role for the United Nations in the settlement process, as well as fortifying the Arab position in the face of attempts to deal with Arab parties one at a time, so that a comprehensive solution would be the basis around which the masses of our Palestinian people can rally and support. [passage omitted]

'Abd-Rabbuh Reiterates Commitment to Peace Process

TA1401192693 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in Arabic 14 Jan 93 pp 1, 11

[Interview with Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, head of the PLO Information Department, by Munir Abu-Rizq; place and date not given]

[Text] [Abu-Rizq] How do you assess the Arab stance emanating from the Arab League ministerial conference?

['Abd-Rabbuh] The Arab states have a better stance than before. They succeeded in convening the first Arab meeting since the Gulf crisis on such a level and so comprehensively. On the other hand, the Arab states expressed solidarity with our position, which considers deportation to be a grave blow to the peace process. Moreover, they affirmed our position on the need to go back to the Security Council and demand that it adopt measures and sanctions against Israel for refusing to implement Resolution 799 and return the deportees. We see this as an initial step. This stance can be developed in order to restore Arab solidarity in general.

[Abu-Rizq] Recently you refuted Nabil Sha'th's remarks and said that they do not express the PLO position. Don't you believe that this will create confusion in the Palestinian street and indicate the existence of differences about the peace process even in the ranks of its supporters?

['Abd-Rabbuh] There are no differences in the Palestinian position. The PLO's decision was stated clearly since the first moment of deportation and before any other party. This decision stressed that there can be no participation in the peace process before the return of the deportees. This position was conveyed to all Arab and international parties. It was also discussed at the Arab foreign ministers meeting in Cairo. We explained that our policy is based on commitment to the peace process. It also holds Rabin's government responsible for pushing this process toward collapse. As far as we are concerned, we cannot have negotiations on one hand, and an iron fist policy and deportation on the other. This is the Palestinian stance. On the basis of this stance, the PLO was able to activate the international and Arab positions, issue Resolution 799, and contact the European Community and ask it to intervene actively for the return of the deportees. This stance has produced good results. We adhere to an evenhanded policy based on rejecting deportation and the iron fist, stemming from the need to protect the peace process. This process cannot proceed effectively now and achieve its aims with the continuation of the current Israeli policy. In addition to this, we have stressed that repression and deportation have coincided with an inflexible Israeli stance in the negotiations. This stance became evident through the Israeli plan that calls for dividing Palestinian land and limiting Palestinian authority to administrative and municipal powers. Consequently, reopening the doors to the peace process requires abandoning the inflexible policy, both in the negotiations and in dealing with the Palestinian people in the occupied territories through an iron fist policy.

[Abu-Rizq] What are the dangers for the Palestinian cause if the Palestinians withdraw from the negotiations?

['Abd-Rabbuh] We will not withdraw from the peace process. We believe that peace is in the interest of the Palestinian people. It is our main pursuit. Halting or suspending the talks, however, is a protest act because of the other party's persistence to convert the talks into a futile political process. They want to pursue deportation and collective punishment despite our sitting at the negotiating table.

We consider the peace process to be the Palestinian people's strategic option. Within the framework of this process, one should adopt positions that affirm the interests and rights of the Palestinian people and protect their security and lives. Therefore, when we refuse to continue the negotiations under the shadow of repression, we are not rejecting the peace process nor does it mean that we are withdrawing from it. This means holding Rabin's government responsible for leading this process to a dead end.

[Abu-Rizq] As secretary general of the Democratic Front, what is your position as an official on participation in the peace process in view of the recent deportation operation?

['Abd-Rabbuh] Our position is part of the Palestinian national position. From the first moment we were partners with the brothers in Fatah, the People's Party, independent figures, and the other factions in adopting the decision. We cannot possibly continue participating in the bilateral or multilateral talks unless the deportees are returned. This stance has been expressed through the Palestinian leadership's statement and decision as well as through statements and remarks that we made, whether as an official, leader, or on behalf of the PLO. Therefore, in the current stage we do not find any divergence or difference in the Palestinian stance toward this issue. On the contrary, this issue has unified the Palestinian street and the Palestinian stance in an effective way. On the other hand, we have tried with the other brothers to invite Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] to meetings within the framework of the Palestinian leadership. We are continuing the dialogue with Hamas in order to be part of the Palestinian national alliance within the PLO, the unified leadership, and other Palestinian national organizations.

As for the stance of Hamas or others toward the peace process, they can express their stance in the manner that they deem fit within a unified Palestinian framework. The Democratic Front is committed to the peace process as well as to participation in advancing this process. We also believe that in order to ensure the success of this process it is necessary to end all forms of repression and terrorism, implement the Geneva Convention, and provide international protection for our people. This will pave the way to implementing the resolutions of international legitimacy and securing our people's right to independence, freedom, and repatriation.

'Arafat Stresses Palestinian Land Remains Arab

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[Excerpt] Brother Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], president of the state of Palestine and chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, stressed today that at this time when maneuvers and conspiracies against Palestine are being increased by the enemy, which practices the policies of deportation, breaking bones, and the iron fist, we tell Rabin and his allies that this Palestinian land will remain Arab because this is the oath of the free and honorable people and martyrs who were martyred on the way to Palestine, with Holy Jerusalem as capital. This was said in a speech delivered by the brother President Abu-'Ammar at the cemetery of the martyrs of the Palestinian revolution in Hammam Lif in Tunis this morning, on the anniversary of the martyrdom of the two great leaders Abu-Iyad [Salah Khalaf] and Abu-al-Hawl [Hayil 'Abd-al-Hamid] and the struggler Abu-Muhammad al-'Amri. [passage omitted]

'Arafat Discusses Peace Talks, Other Issues

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[Text] Cairo, 13 Jan (MENA)—In today's issue, the magazine AKHIR SA'AH publishes on its first five pages an interview its chief editor Muhammad Wajdi Qandil held with PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat on the peace talks and the Arab-Israeli negotiations. The following is the text of the interview:

[Qandil] Fourteen months have passed since the Arab-Israeli talks began—in Madrid, then Washington—and the Arab parties, including the Palestinians, have gone a long way in their talks with the Israelis. What is president Yasir 'Arafat's assessment of the outcome of these months of negotiations? Where are we? Has there been any Israeli responsiveness following Rabin's accession to power to attempts to reach a positive result and eventually a peaceful settlement?

['Arafat] I will talk about the Palestinian track, because this is what concerns me.

Let us be frank. I can say that after 14 months and two eras—Shamir's and Rabin's, or Likud's and Labor's—the outcome is zero, yes, zero. The Israeli side has not put forward any positive proposals based on President Bush's initiative, which emphasizes land for peace and the implementation of Resolutions 242 and 338. In other words, they have said nothing about a withdrawal from the occupied Arab and Palestinian lands, including Jerusalem; the lawful political rights of the Palestinians; and security for all the regional countries.

The Israeli side is still evading these principles, which are the bases of the negotiating process. The Israeli side has offered us nothing but self-administration and local administration in the form of expanded municipalities that supervise the people, not the land. Hence, the Israeli side has not admitted that these are "occupied territories." What is more is Rabin's remark that the Palestinians are like the Kurds or the Basques; in other words, they are a minority. The Israelis are still governed by that mentality. This mentality was revealed by Rubinstein—whom Rabin kept as chairman of the Israeli delegation although he had originally been chosen by Shamir—when, at the end of the eighth round of talks, he presented to us a plan bearing the names "Judaea and Samaria," instead of West Bank and Gaza.

[Qandil] What does he mean by that? Is it a negotiating strategy?

['Arafat] I have to tell you how he responded when Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, chairman of the Palestinian delegation, protested and threw the plan back to him. Rubinstein said: "We are presenting this plan to punish you, because you call them the West Bank, Gaza, and al-Quds [Jerusalem]. This is Israeli land." This means that they are offering nothing in their negotiations with the Palestinians. Rabin's goal is the same as Shamir's: To be evasive and avoid an agreement. Rabin can reach an

agreement on their terms, provided that Jerusalem—its land and people—is not included in it and that there will be no talk about the Israeli settlements or about divided "emiri lands." They want to talk about municipalities alone; that is, to provide services to people in the Bank and Gaza and exclude the Palestinians from security aspects. This means a mere administrative body, nothing more and nothing less. Such an Israeli proposal runs counter to President Bush's initiative; to the letter of guarantees that the two sponsors, the United States and Russia, gave to us; and counter to the invitation addressed to us by the two sponsors of the peace conference. Moreover, negotiations should not take more than one year (12 months). We are now in the 15th month and nothing has been achieved.

[Qandil] Why do you liken the Israeli plan to Swiss cheese?

['Arafat] The Israeli plan is like Swiss cheese because it has gaps and holes. The plan is based on the presence of the Palestinian inhabitants in towns and villages, in cantons separated from each other. The emiri land, the state land, does not concern us and is shaded by the colors red, green, and gray. The red areas are not for us, the gray areas are to be jointly administered by the Palestinians and Israelis, and the green areas represent the towns. The settlements will remain where they are and will be connected by road networks. The Palestinian inhabitants will remain isolated in their villages and towns and will not be connected to each other. They will live in separate cantons. There will be no legislative elections. The plan speaks about general elections for an administrative body. This is what Rabin offers.

The question is: Is the Palestinian side supposed to give legitimacy to the Israeli occupation? I am not prepared to offer this legitimacy. More dangerous is that Jerusalem is never mentioned and is excluded from the talks. I ask: Who can or who has the right to exclude Jerusalem from the peace plan? These Israeli dreams will not bring about peace and will not solve the issue. It must be understood that unless a just and real peace is established, chaos will prevail in the region, a new Balkanization will occur, as in Yugoslavia. The United States must understand this dangerous fate threatening the region.

[Qandil] Do you believe the U.S. position can develop during the talks and become more effective under the Clinton administration, especially as Secretary of State [designate] Warren Christopher was on the Carter administration team, has previous experience in Middle East affairs, and participated in the peace process between Egypt and Israel?

['Arafat] Don't forget that Defense Secretary [designate] Les Aspen supports Israel.

In any case, and in the U.S. interest before that of the Arabs or Palestinians, believe me, I sincerely hope that President Clinton will not adhere to what he promised Israel on Jerusalem during the election campaign. Adherence to his election promises after he takes office will be biased toward Israel. We must wait and see and not prejudge the new U.S. Administration.

[Qandil] You did not welcome Rabin's coming to power after Shamir. You attacked him for his past record against the Palestinians. Do you believe he wants a political solution or a peaceful settlement or is he avoiding an agreement and adopting an iron-fist policy and deporting the Palestinians, like he used to do when he was defense minister? Do you believe he is going back on the peace promises that brought him to power?

['Arafat] We must remember that he is defense minister and prime minister. As well as the iron-fist policy, Rabin is responsible for the undercover squads that wear Arab dress and commit ugly crimes against the Palestinians. He considers these squads one of his security achievements. He is also responsible for the special units that liquidate the Palestinians, particularly intifadah activists. He recently met these units to show how proud he is of them.

Rabin is no politician. He still thinks with the mentality of a general in the Israeli military establishment although he is a prime minister. There are generals who have become politicians; Rabin is not one of them.

[Qandil] What do you think of those in the Labor Party who advocate the need to open a dialogue with the PLO?

['Arafat] No doubt "the liberals", whether they are from the Labor Party or from Meretz, and the five Arab voters in the Knesset, brought General Rabin to power. Rabin cooperated with the liberals, but at the same time adopted the policy of the hardline right. This reflects in his decision to deport 413 Palestinians from the West Bank and Gaza. It is a war crime to transfer [preceding word in English], or deport people to please the right. He is holding a dialogue with the Tzomet and Mafdal groups to have them enter the government and guarantee a balance of power with the liberals.

[Qabdil] On what basis did you form this picture about Rabin?

['Arafat] I will never forget the siege of Beirut, when Rabin came in with Sharon by helicopter and flexed his muscle. He was not a member of the government then, but he came to take part in strikes against the Palestinians and Lebanese and the tightening of the siege against them. Rabin also played a role in crimes committed against the Palestinians and Lebanese. Deputy Defense Minister Gur had plans to meet me. He sent me a message and I welcomed his idea, but Sharon obstructed the attempt and gave his well-known dictum to embarrass him: No one will go to 'Arafat.

It should not escape us that this is Rabin's mentality and ideology. The intifadah broke out when Rabin was defense minister. He was in Washington when he was asked about the intifadah and said: Give me two days to wipe it out. I told him: You have two days, two months,

even two years. Time will tell. But the intifadah continued for five years and has entered its sixth year; Rabin could not eliminate it. Chief of Staff Ehud Barak said: Don't be deceived when the intifadah declines, because less stones mean more bullets.

[Qandil] Despite the enmity and the picture since the siege of Beirut, to what extent can you agree with Rabin? Can you take an initiative for the sake of peace?

['Arafat] Didn't I request a meeting with Rabin? Didn't I say I was prepared to meet him at the United Nations? I said so because I believe peace can be achieved with the enemies. But what was Rabin's answer? He said 'Arafat is the sole obstacle on the road to peace. That's what he said. He said I tell the Palestinian negotiating team to obstruct the negotiations. Isn't that contradictory. Isn't Rabin instructing the Israeli delegation? I tell Rabin: Let's meet at the United Nations and achieve peace. I am an obstacle and so are you, but let's eliminate the obstacles and make peace.

So I address the Israeli people. They did not vote for Rabin, rather for peace. The Israeli people voted against Shamir's policy, the policy of expansion, "Greater Israel," and against the policy of procrastination, annexation, and settlement. The Israelis voted for the Labor Party's program because it raised the slogan of peace with the Arabs and the Palestinians.

Well, six months have passed since he assumed power and he has not done anything for peace. Rabin's objective is the same as that of Shamir. They both want to normalize Arab-Israeli relations at the expense of Palestinian rights. Rabin said: The Palestinians are like the Kurds and Basques.

I urge the Palestinian people to settle the issue, because it was these people who brought Rabin to power to make peace. I regret to say I cannot find de Gaulle or de Klerk within the ranks of the Israeli leaders. We have sent a memorandum to the conference's sponsors saying that each day that passes after 31 October [the beginning of talks in Madrid in 1991] should be one day less in the transitional stage.

[Qandil] The Palestinian deportees issue has taken an important turn following Israel's insistence on not going back on its deportation decision or exile for two years and after the Rabin government upheld its stand and rejected the warning of UN Secretary General Dr. Butrus Butrus-Ghali. Who did decide that the deportees should remain in "Marj al-Zuhur" and not be allowed to enter Lebanese territory?

['Arafat] The Lebanese Government decided but upon my request. Why? The first sign came when they told me the deportees were arrested in the West Bank and Gaza and that the Israelis were transporting them by helicopter. We asked: Why the helicopter during the night? There must be a deportation operation or a mass expulsion, not just arrests. We moved swiftly and I contacted the peace conference sponsors, primarily Washington. I gathered the Palestinian leadership in an emergency meeting during which we decided to ask the Lebanese Government not to receive the Palestinian deportees and to close all the crossing points. It was difficult for the Lebanese Government to close the crossing points but it did so upon our request.

I also sent messages to President al-Hirawi, Prime Minister al-Hariri, and Chamber Speaker Nabih Birri. They responded to our request because it coincided with a Lebanese desire and also because they feared a repetition constituting the beginning of a large-scale transfer [preceding word in English] operation of thousands of Palestinians from the West Bank and Gaza, deported to Lebanese territory.

When the Lebanese Army prevented them from crossing the border points, I contacted the deportees and briefed them on the decision I made to confront the deportation. I told them: I know the decision is harsh and difficult. They replied: Go ahead with God's blessings. We only want to go back and return to our land and kinfolk. We will not cross to Lebanese territory.

This boosted my confidence and we made our moves at the Security Council and in Washington, where the negotiating team met President Bush twice within two days. We also made contacts with President Yeltsin and contacted China and the Arab countries. I contacted President Mubarak and told him: Mr. President, the deportees are your responsibility. I came to Cairo and met President Mubarak. We agreed to hold a meeting of the five cordon states that issued a decision at the end of their meeting, stressing the need for the return of the deportees to guarantee that negotiations continue. On the last day of the Washington negotiations, the Palestinian delegation suspended them. The same decision was later made by the Syrian, Jordanian, and Lebanese delegations.

I have here a word to say about President Mubarak's role and his efforts to resolve the deportees issue. I do not want to reveal what he is doing, but, truly, he treats it as an issue of the day, giving it every attention. On behalf of the Palestinian people and the deportees' families, I thank him for what he is doing without much publicity.

[Qandil] Why did Israel make the deportation decision and what impasse does it face?

['Arafat] I believe Rabin did not expect such reactions to his decision or my decision to confront the deportation plan. Rabin thought his decision would pass like previous decisions.

[Qandil] How will the deportees' problem be solved and will Israel go back on its decision, particularly amid reports on solutions involving a third country hosting the deportees until the end of the exile?

['Arafat] If the United Nations pressures Israel and Security Council Resolution 799 is implemented, Rabin must then look for a solution. I say he must allow them

to return to their homes and those who are accused will stand trial. But the situation and the crime of transfer [preceding word in English] cannot remain unsolved.

There are thousands of Palestinian detainees in Israeli prisons. Fatah alone has 24,000 detainees. Let them try those accused and release the rest. Maintaining the deportation decision will undoubtedly reflect on the negotiations and poison the peace process.

[Qandil] The intifadah seems to worry Israel, particularly the Israeli military establishment. An indication of this is that Rabin tried to use the deportees issue to halt the intifadah. In his latest offer, Rabin said the deportees could be returned home within nine months if the intifadah is stopped. Why? Can the intifadah be stopped?

['Arafat] I want to tell Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin one thing: The intifadah will continue wave upon wave, because the Palestinians inside the occupied territories cannot continue indefinitely without breathing space. I know the Israeli Army has been exhausted over the past five years. Take for example that four of 11 Israeli divisions are on constant alert in the West Bank and Gaza. There are two divisions in the West Bank and Gaza and reserves for occasional rotation. This is exhausting for any army. No army can be on the alert for five years continuously. This would cause a strategic disruption in the Israeli Army, which is why it suffers the highest rate of psychological problems.

[Qandil] There is a danger that the intifadah will begin using arms instead of stones after the killing of Shin Bet officer Hayim Nahmani in Gaza and of the kidnapped Israeli soldier. Will the intifadah give up its peaceful resistance as the Israeli pressure and iron fist increase as Rabin pursues a policy of deporting Palestinian scholars and the intifadah leadership?

['Arafat] There are arms in the occupied territories but we bar their use because we do not want to harm the intifadah. What is happening is natural and in response to crimes committed against Arabs in the West Bank and Gaza. Violence breeds violence. I cite the example of a Fatah member from 'Anzah village. Israeli helicopters and tanks carried out reprisals for nine hours, destroying his and surrounding homes. When they cornered him he killed an officer and wounded five soldiers before he was killed. Palestinian youths who saw this man resist so steadfastly for so long will follow suit. The crimes committed by Israelis disguised in Arab dress and the special units sent to liquidate the intifadah will eventually lead to force and killing.

The intifadah death toll, according to 'Arafat, is over 1,700. Some 112,000 have been wounded and 8,000 women have miscarried, because the Israeli soldiers used chemical bombs rather than tear gas, according to U.S., Belgian, and Dutch testimonies, and approximately 6,000 have been maimed. Children lost their sight or were paralyzed by gases and rubber bullets and around 127,000 Palestinians visited jails. These figures are high compared with the population of the West Bank and Gaza—2 million people.

[Qandil] What about the dispute between "Hamas" and the PLO concerning the intifadah, its course and escalation. Isn't it being said that "Hamas" rejects negotiations with Israel, demands a return to armed struggle, and believes that arms should be used in the intifadah and in the confrontation with Israel?

['Arafat] No. This is not true. Hamas may have resorted to weapons lately in the face of heightened Israeli repression. Hamas is not an underground movement. It operates in the open, like the communist party inside the homeland. Neither Hamas nor that party believe in armed struggle. But lately Hamas carried out military operations. This happened when Shaykh Ahmad Yasin was arrested. Then these operations stopped. More recently, because of Iranian influence, Hamas carried out military operations, such as the abduction of the Israeli soldier.

[Qandil] If Hamas does not believe in military struggle, why is it at odds with the PLO over the peace process?

['Arafat] There is nothing strange or contradictory here. Even within the PLO, there are differences on the process of negotiations with the Israelis. We in the PLO make our decisions democratically. I did not attend negotiations on my own decision. I went to negotiations on a decision by the Palestine National Council and the PLO Central Council. About 84 percent of the votes favored negotiations and 16 percent opposed.

We are proud of the PLO's democracy. It is democracy in "a jungle of rifles," a most difficult type of democracy. Any PLO member can criticize Yasir 'Arafat and I appreciate this. I say, as did [second Caliph] 'Umar Bin-al-Khattab: May God bless a man who corrects 'Umar.

[Qandil] Israel apparently relied on Hamas to divide Palestinian ranks. Israel hoped a Hamas-PLO dispute would end the intifadah. What happened in the recent Khartoum meeting? Did it produce an appropriate formula for settling the dispute between Hamas and Fatah?

['Arafat] Yes. We arrived at a preliminary and reconciliatory formula—not exactly what Hamas or Fatah want. This formula is not bad; we see it as a step forward.

[Qandil] Will Hamas join ranks with the PLO at this crucial stage to foil Israel's attempt to bank on Hamas-Fatah differences and exploit an inter-Palestinian dispute over the peace process?

['Arafat] Hamas wants to know first what share [of power] they will have and how they will be represented in the PLO and its institutions. We want the representation and the share to be genuine.

[Qandil] Hamas says it represents 35 percent of the West Bank and Gaza inhabitants.

['Arafat] Why? Hamas obtains huge funding and support from external sources—from Iran, for instance, and other countries. It uses these funds to finance elections inside the homeland. But they have not won a majority. Let us look at the elections of the Association of Chambers of Commerce—representing 17,000 merchants—in the West Bank. Hamas spent $18 million obtained in donations from abroad on these elections but won [control of] only one of the 16 chambers of commerce. Fatah won control of 15 chambers. I will give you another example. Hamas won only four electoral districts of 29 in the occupied territories, in which students, blue collar workers, engineers, physicians, and chambers of commerce are represented. Why, then, [does Hamas make] such claims?

[Qandil] Don't you believe their presence within the PLO benefits unified Palestinian action and forestalls Iran's attempts to penetrate the Palestinian ranks?

['Arafat] We welcome them but the problem is that their leadership has no decision. The Hamas leadership follows the Muslim Brotherhood leadership in Jordan. They were pressured not to go to Tunis or the Khartoum meetings. The Muslim Brotherhood leadership in Jordan has a position on the PLO and on the negotiations. (Their position differs from that of the Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt). Then there is Iran's instigation. As for penetration, Hamas has been penetrated and the Islamic Jihad Movement, led by Fathi al-Shiqaqi, an Iranian intelligence agent, has been penetrated in part. The PLO leadership knows Iran finances certain Palestinian groups to cause dissent among the PLO. Iran recently paid these groups $30 million. This Iranian policy harms the Palestinian cause. Iran is training dissident members from Hamas and the Islamic Jihad Movement to penetrate them. It is doing the same with other leftist organizations.

[Qandil] We know the PLO supported the Iranian revolution with funds and arms at the outset and was in constant touch with Khomeyni. Why this shift in Iran's position on the PLO?

['Arafat] The reason for these attempts to penetrate and divide the PLO and fund dissension is the Iraq-Iran war. Our position on Iran was clear and definite. I stated this frankly to Khomeyni when I met him as a member of the Islamic Good Offices Committee to stop the war. Khomeyni said: The PLO and the Palestinians should stand by us because we are Muslims. I said: I am not al-'Alqami, who conquered Baghdad. Khomeyni said: We are not Tartars. I said: Then do not attack the Arabs. We want Iran to back, not attack, the Arabs.

I tried all I could to stop the war between Iran and Iraq through bilateral, Islamic, and nonaligned efforts, but to no avail. Khomeyni insisted on his stand and on continuing the war. This is why there is a shift in Iran's position on the PLO. But there is a personal friendship between Hashemi-Rafsanjani and myself that began before the revolution. I met him twice recently. I met him at Dakar and he told me he opposed the Madrid conference and peace negotiations. I asked him to wait and see if we can emerge with something. I met him in Jakarta and he said the same. He said he opposed the Madrid conference and the negotiations and supports every Palestinian organization that rejects negotiations. I replied: You voted against Jihad and therefore have no right to call for fighting in Palestine. I said: Do not play in my home. I sent him a letter saying there was no justification for Iran's interference in our affairs.

[Qandil] Do Tehran's rulers intend to strike at the PLO through penetration and intrigue between Hamas and the PLO and pay millions to create contradictions?

['Arafat] They are trying to get leverage within the Palestinian ranks to strengthen the Iranian position. Don't forget that the Palestinian issue and Jerusalem concern them on the Arab, Islamic, and international levels. I will not allow interference in national Palestinian decisionmaking. I have fought for this goal. We know Iran is doing everything to instigate Palestinian factions.

[Qandil] Let us turn to the support given to the intifadah. The PLO got assistance from the Gulf to help the inhabitants of the West Bank and Gaza. What is the situation after the Gulf war? What losses did the Palestinians sustain in the events?

['Arafat] Believe me, the Palestinians were the primary losers in the Gulf war. Some 450,000 Palestinians were expelled from Kuwait. Our losses were approximately $12 billion.

Regrettably, since the start of the Gulf crisis in August 1990, the PLO has received nothing. We have received no assistance for the intifadah or support for the West Bank and Gaza. The Gulf war cost the Arabs $625 billion, as America admitted. But hungry Gaza gets no help to survive. I had to ask China, Vietnam, Malaysia, and Indonesia for help and these countries sent us food shipments to stave off starvation in Gaza. The Egyptian Red Crescent is also helping.

[Qandil] Can assistance be provided through channels other than the PLO to avoid raising any sensitivities?

['Arafat] A year ago I supplied a full list of Palestinian institutions and their needs and asked them [not further specified] to pay these organizations directly, without going through the PLO. They could help the martyrs institutions, which cost the PLO $70 million a year, and the universities in the occupied land. Then there are the costs of the Palestinian army and embassies. It is enough that we, in cooperation with Jordan, finance the mosques, including al-Aqsa mosque. The PLO bears great responsibilities.

[Qandil] The Gulf war is over. Is it not time to settle Arab differences and clear the atmosphere so that relations between the PLO and the Gulf countries may return to their former state? In light of President Husni

Mubarak's mediation in the Saudi-Qatari border dispute, what will be the first step toward mending the Arab rift?

['Arafat] I repeat what United Arab Emirates President Shaykh Zayid said when he called to forgive and forget mistakes and disputes to enable the Arabs to confront the existing challenges and so that the Arab nation may withstand the dangers.

Let us remember that France and Germany have a past of wars and enmity but these are the two countries that created European unity and the Common Market. The first unified army in Europe was founded by the Germans and the French. [as received] We are one nation with one history and one faith. So what is the obstacle? Why don't we forgive and forget differences and face the challenges? If the Arab summit is not held now, when will it be held?

[Qandil] Should the Arab League prepare the ground for reconciliation among the Arabs? Should mediation be the means to clear the atmosphere and set the scene for a reconciliation summit? Or do you have other ideas?

['Arafat] Allow me to say that President Mubarak has a great responsibility in this respect, because he has influence everywhere and can use his leverage in many ways.

Just as in the Saudi-Qatari dispute, President Mubarak can do more for the pan-Arab cause. I know the burden is heavy but I say to him: Carry on. Carry on, Mr. President, because you are the only one who can do it. I sent Mahmud 'Abbas (Abu-Mazin) to Saudi Arabia to attend the celebration sponsored by Prince Salman in Riyadh to mark the 28th anniversary of the Palestinian revolution. After Saudi Arabia, 'Abbas toured other Gulf countries.

[Qandil] Look at the dialogue between the United States and the PLO that started in Tunis through U.S. Ambassador Pelletreau then stopped. President Bush received the Palestinian negotiating delegation twice but is it not true that a U.S. State Department official believes this does not mean the dialogue between the United States and the PLO will resume?

['Arafat] Such an opinion is meaningless, because the Palestinian delegation has been appointed by the PLO and is not separate from it. But I have a right to say: We have a promise from the U.S. Administration, from President Bush, and from Baker, who said: Give us until after the U.S. presidential election and we will resume the dialogue with you. Now the current U.S. Administration's term is ending and they have not resumed the dialogue. They could say: There is a new Administration coming in and we cannot make a decision or take such a step, because we are like a "sitting duck." But this same Administration carried out the Somalia operation and President Bush went [to Moscow] and signed a new nuclear arms control agreement with Yeltsin. Can't he [Bush] take an initiative with the Palestinians and move to rescue the peace initiative he advanced? I call on President Bush to take the initiative toward resuming the dialogue with the PLO as Baker promised!

[Qandil] Does this mean the Palestinian issue has reentered a dark tunnel despite the negotiations, that the ray of hope, which loomed on the horizon, has gone, and that the peaceful settlement and solution have reached a dead end?

['Arafat] The [Palestinian] cause did not emerge from the tunnel in the first place. We remain in the dark tunnel despite negotiations. I did not harbor any rosy dreams when I started the negotiating process. I accepted going to Madrid under unfavorable terms to give peace a chance. But the situation, under Shamir and Rabin, has not changed. No progress has been made and no constructive plans have been advanced by the Israeli delegation during the 14 months of negotiations. Believe me when I tell you: When my colleagues and I were inside the plane [that crashed in Libya in 1992] and between life and death, two pictures never left me. The first was of my brother Abu-Jihad [PLO second-in-command Khalil al-Wazir, killed in Tunis]. I found myself murmuring: Wait for me Abu-Jihad. The other picture was of al-Aqsa Mosque. The two never left me for a moment. I am a believer. This means I will pray at the al-Aqsa Mosque.

[Qandil] So what is the way out of this dark tunnel?

['Arafat] This intifadah that disturbs them will continue until it achieves its goal of a Palestinian state. We are realistic and ready to set up a Palestinian-Jordanian confederal state [dawlah confidraliyah] with the free will of the Jordanian and Palestinian peoples.

[Qandil] What is the Palestinian position after the latest round of peace talks and developments surrounding the deportees, especially as negotiations have not been halted?

['Arafat] Patience has limits. The situation cannot remain the same. Some 14 months have passed without result. That is why we sent only four Palestinian negotiators to the latest round of talks. I ring the bell for the two conference cosponsors and the world to warn against the failure of the peace process. I cannot keep engaging in deadlocked negotiations. If the two cosponsors do not salvage the negotiations and if the PRC, Japan, and Europe do not move, we will not go to the negotiations. We are not prepared to be used by anyone. There is an agreement that the basis of the negotiations is "land for peace" and the implementation of Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, which mean withdrawal from the occupied land, including Jerusalem, and [recognition] of the Palestinian people's legitimate rights. We face procrastination and stalling in the negotiations.

[Qandil] Should the plans proposed by Israel have been worked out on this basis?

['Arafat] Of course. I maintain that Israel shows disdain and the United States watches. I do not want to say the

United States is colluding. U.S. silence about what is happening is a bias toward Israel, because when we or any of the Arab delegations make a simple mistake, the United States raises its voice in protest.

[Qandil] What happened between President Bush and the Palestinian delegation members—Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, Faysal al-Husayni, and Hanan 'Ashrawi—when he received them at the White House? What did he tell them?

['Arafat] President Bush told them efforts are difficult during a transitional period and just before handing power to the Clinton administration. I maintain that despite this, President Bush made important decisions. He sent forces to Somalia and to the Horn of Africa or Bab el Mandeb. He also signed the START II Treaty and engaged in the GATT battle with Europe. So Bush is not restricted and can make decisions. Why didn't decide on the peace process? Because he and the U.S. Administration do not want to pressure Israel. This is a challenge that faces the Arab nation under the new world order. Will that order be formed at our expense, like Yalta and the Sykes-Picot pacts?

[Qandil] Doesn't this situation necessitate a unified Arab stand to face these challenges so that the Arabs might overcome the dangers surrounding them?

['Arafat] That is essential, otherwise the Arab nation will face a disaster and the new world order will be established at our expense. History shows no mercy.

[Qandil] Has there been any early Palestinian contact with the Clinton administration or his aides, as Israel has done?

['Arafat] We have neither financial nor propaganda resources to back Clinton's campaign. We had no means of influence. The Arabs have no pressure cards nor are we good at using them. Regrettably, I say we are left alone.

[Qandil] This is a rather grim and worrying picture.

['Arafat] It is worrying and tiring but does not call for despair.

[Qandil] Would the Israeli people do something about the danger facing peace?

['Arafat] They should save peace, because peace is as good for the Palestinians and the Arabs as it is for Israel. The alternative to peace is chaos, disturbances, and the Balkanization of the region.

PFLP-GC Denies Connection to Lockerbie

JN1401194593 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1730 GMT 14 Jan 93

[Text] An official spokesman of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command [PFLP-GC] has refuted PLAYBOY magazine allegations concerning a statement to the magazine by a former PFLP-GC member. The spokesman said the magazine's report, which was cited by Radio Monte Carlo, is full of lies and has no basis of the truth, adding that no PFLP-GC member has made any statements to this magazine.

The spokesman said that the PFLP-GC has reiterated time and again that it has no connection whatsoever with the so-called Lockerbie issue.

Concluding his statement, the spokesman said that such allegations are within the series of unjust and false accusations and the anti-PFLP-GC campaign and will not succeed in deviating it from its just and legitimate struggle.

Revolution until the liberation of the land and man.

[Signed] The PFLP-GC, Department of Central Information and Guidance.

Sources Report 454 Killed in Gaza Since Intifadah

NC1501111793 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1022 GMT 15 Jan 93

[Excerpt] Cairo, 15 Jan (MENA)—Palestinian sources in Cairo say the Israeli occupation forces use raids on Arab homes in the occupied territories on the pretext of searching for intifadah activists to conduct large-scale looting, such as stealing bank notes, jewelry, and precious items belonging to Arab citizens.

In a statement today, the sources said the value of items stolen in the past three months is in the hundreds of thousands of dollars. The sources added that the Israeli forces not only steal, but also wreck furniture and electrical appliances, even if there are no wanted men in the homes.

The sources said the number of Palestinian intifadah martyrs in Gaza in December was 17, including five children aged from 10 to 16. The martyrs were killed by the occupation forces deliberately shooting at their heads and chests, raising the number of martyrs killed in Gaza from the start of the intifadah until the end of last year to 454. [passage omitted]

Algeria

Council Chairman Calls For Referendum

LD1401155293 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 14 Jan 93

[Address by Higher State Council Chairman Ali Kafi on the one-year anniversary of the Higher State Council, in Algiers on 14 January—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Prayers and peace be upon the lord of messengers. Sisters and brothers: At the beginning of this meeting I greet you and greet all the Algerians, men and women, in their places of work and wherever they may be. [passage omitted]

Citizens, there is no doubt that the year 1992 was a difficult year for Algeria, during which extremely grave events took place in succession. It was, at the same time, the year in which the danger was stopped. We had been able to stop the danger thanks to the full maturity of our people, and thanks to the vigilance and courage of its sons—the members of the National People's Army and the public security forces—and thanks to the struggling nationalists who appreciate Algeria correctly and put Algeria before any consideration and know how to defend it in time of hardship.

We are entering 1993 full of hope that Algeria will retrieve its stability and vitality. I take advantage of this opportunity, this occasion, to offer our people in my own name and on behalf of the members of the Higher State Council our warmest congratulations, wishing to Almighty God that it will bring the Algerian people tranquillity and a recovery of confidence, and our country a resumption of the effort of national construction and social progress.

The Higher State Council was set up in the wake of a sharp crisis that shook the entire country. The national state was threatened with danger and its institutions deeply hit. The street was in continuous turmoil and several economic institutions were paralyzed. The economic life was not harmonious and showed several manifestations of bribery. On the security side, some National People's Army and public security posts were subjected to armed attacks, acts of terrorism were organized, and attempts to seize power by force became clear. At the same time, aggressions multiplied against people and public and private properties. All this chaos came during a situation marked by a sharp financial crisis that threatened the country with a large-scale economic regression.

It was not possible for the political multiparty system, from which we hoped for a contribution to get us out of the crisis, to propose any real choice that would guarantee the country's security. This was due to the absence of a clear vision as well as a conscious and wise running of the period of transition from a one-party to a multiparty system.

The country was on the brink of breaking up due to misleading attempts that were nurtured by religious extremism, regionalism, interest-based factional conflicts, and the spirit of adventure. [passage omitted]

Since its appointment, the Higher State Council has made control of the transitional democratic process its main objective, taking into consideration the conditions of the brief pluralistic experiment experienced in the country, on the one hand, and analyzing the shortcomings that became evident during implementation of the February 1989 Constitution, on the other. It assessed the general situation in the country and the collapse of the state institutions. The council immediately started to carry out the difficult mission of regaining the citizens' trust and reinstating the link between the citizen and authorities and maintaining the normal functioning of state institutions. [passage omitted]

The Higher State Council was certain that the roots of corruption were deep and that uprooting those roots and restoring respect to the ethics of public life was a fundamental task that should be achieved within any action seeking the nation's revival. True Islam, the nation's religion, was forcibly involved in that plan, where it was exploited by criminals and traitors to come to power and to domination. The gravity of this ugly act is reflected in raising doubts about the religion of the nation and the Algerian people, which have adopted Islam and have defended it by all means and in all circumstances without the need for a leader, a new preacher, or pretenders.

Compatriots, facing this grave situation, the Higher State Council adopted a series of initiatives to block the road in light of attempts aimed at diverting it from its basic task of recovering the country from the difficult condition, and it decided to mobilize all available means of the state to eradicate terrorism and cleanse the country of this evil, to disband the scheme within which the terrorist operations fall, and to restore security and tranquillity to the citizen.

For this purpose special laws were enacted and courts, which have commenced their work, were set up. The Higher State Council renews its pledge to provide the full backing necessary to the justice system so as to enable it to perform its mission in a way that responds to the legitimate aspirations of the Algerian people. [passage omitted]

It is thanks to those initiatives that we have recovered the street for the citizen and the mosque for the act of worship. [passage omitted]

It also aims at fighting bribery, corruption, and all forms of messing about with state funds and public property. It has also started implementing tangible measures that will be strengthened in order to put an end to these deviations. On the other hand, the government's program aims to save the country from the trap of foreign debts and to halt the drain they cause on the economy.

The government's program also aims to lay down strong foundations for reviving the national economy, to rely on our own resources, and to mobilize national potentialities as well as to open the doors to the initiatives and to free them from restrictions so as to enable the national economy to face the new changes imposed by the market economy.

This program also aims to set up complementary cooperation with foreign operators, which would guarantee mutual interests and preserve the freedom of the national political decision.

Citizens, men and women, we are convinced that getting out of the crisis through which our country is passing can be possible only by eliminating terrorism and other social scourges and finding a comprehensive political solution so as to firmly establish a true democracy within the framework of a renewed national project.

I said that we are convinced that getting out from the crisis through which our country is passing can be achieved only by eliminating terrorism and other social scourges and finding a comprehensive political solution in order to establish firmly a true democracy within the framework of a renewed national project.

The debates we have held with political parties, popular organizations, and associations have confirmed the Algerian people's attachment to the values of November 1954 and to the entrenched values of the national movement.

Confirmation of such facts necessitates the continuation and deepening of debate in order to renew and to continue with the national project in accordance with the new requirements of our society and the changes under way in the world.

From that premise, the Higher State Council seeks to gradually but decisively bring about drastic change and to break away from mistaken practices in managing the country's affairs. Our effort in that respect will not be hampered by either the strength of mental immobilism or by the maneuvers of the force that stands against change because the inevitability of drastic and comprehensive change and of a break are urgent requirements for our people.

Citizens, we are now certain that the divorce between the citizen and power occurred when the latter deviated from the national project adopted by our people. Continuation and enrichment of the project constitute the only way to regain lost confidence.

We pledge, with a sense of historical responsibility and with a more realistic and composed behavior, to rebuild the republic's institutions taking into consideration the new requirements dictated by society's movement. The historical mission of building the nation-state has been affected and the project was subject to confusion and shocks. It is imperative on us to resume the building within a democratic framework. As for us, the renewal of the national project is represented by building a modern, strong, and stable republic, creating an advanced democratic society based on political plurality that guarantees freedom of opinion, expression and human rights, in addition to establishing a political system that guarantees the principle of rotation in power in the shadow of a nation opened to the world, aware of its responsibilities and its status in the regional and international arenas, which are witnessing a profound change. [passage omitted]

In that context, we have to recall that what we are experiencing now in the transitional democratic phase and the changes in our social, political and economic systems are of concern to and are being followed by those who are dealing with them and also by international political observers through an analysis and assessment of our chances of success. Therefore, we are required to have great determination and constant mobilization in order to reach our objectives in the best possible conditions. The development of the current experience in our country will undoubtedly have a great influence on stability in the region as a whole.

The task of renewing the national plan necessitates the mobilization of all Algerians who are interested in building a country that would move towards progress and modernization. In this context, national cadre will have a decisive role in building that structure. Efforts have to be made to create the appropriate conditions to allow them to play that role effectively. [passage omitted]

Citizens, the effort we are making at this phase should target giving our youth a future that allows them to come out of their state of marginalization and negligence and that helps them express their opinions regarding their fate and to assume their responsibilities vis-a-vis their participation in constructing that future.

Citizens, the government program defined the general guidelines of action by the executive; the program is gradually coming into shape on the ground and constitutes a harmonized effort to find solutions to the real problems of the country at the economic, social, and educational levels. [passage omitted]

The Higher State Council seeks to make 1993 a year of stability, tranquillity, restored hope, and revived confidence. [passage omitted]

During the new year we will consolidate the state's capabilities to combat terrorism by various means. We will not permit evil to be exacerbated. At the same time, we will make sure we avoid any pitfalls liable to lead the country into a situation that is difficult to control.

On a different level, we will continue the debate with political parties, popular organizations, and associations with a view to reactivating national political life. [passage omitted]

We will seek to make the debate more in-depth and more realistic and to direct it toward definite essential issues.

so that each party can assess and define its strategy, bearing in mind the country's real problems. We will exclude from such an endeavor all those who perpetrate or adopt violence to attain power. We will also work for a broad political base to renovate the national plan and to defend it on the ground. [passage omitted]

The Higher State Council announced that it was unattached to power and that its task was temporary. It also announced its attachment to the principles of change and of effecting a break with the past and to the need for the country to be handed down to a new national generation that believes in the constants of the nation, and that is imbued with patriotism and capable of continuing the task of national construction within a self-renewing national project. [passage omitted]

Citizens, the Higher State Council, while it assumes the duties of the president of the republic, in accordance with the communique of 14 January, is aware of the historic dimensions of its obligations to the Algerian nation and people. [passage omitted]

To safeguard the stability of the country's institutions, the Higher State Council intends to consult the Algerian people by holding a referendum on the best formula for managing the transitional period, which is necessary for the continuation of state action, and on amendments to the Constitution designed to achieve a better balance between the various powers and efficient institutional organization. [passage omitted]

Naturally, the consultation requires the provision of adequate conditions for the expression of a free people's choice in an atmosphere of tranquillity and away from any pressures.

The Higher State Council will continue the debate it has opened. It will invite the appropriate institutions, association representatives, political parties, social forces, and figures wishing to contribute to the national interest, to democratic choice, in respect of the republican character, and to participate in dialogue.

On this occasion I call on all Algerians, male and female, and the youth in particular, to mobilize, face up to the challenge, and to rekindle confidence in themselves and in the institutions of their country.

May God guide us and direct our steps toward the good of the nation. Peace and God's blessing be upon you.

Government Expresses Concern Over Attack on Iraq

LD1401213693 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 14 Jan 93

[Text] Following the air attacks against Iraq, the five ambassadors of the UNSC permanent-member states accredited in Algeria were received today at the Foreign Ministry.

Algeria expresses its concern and anxiety regarding the new developments. It expressed its hope that this escalation would come to an end to avoid further escalation of the situation in the region.

Kafi Signs Decree Pardoning 6,000 Prisoners

LD1401213493 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 14 Jan 93

[Text] On the 32d anniversary of the 11 December [date as received] 1960 demonstration, during our victorious revolution of liberation, Mr. Ali Kafi signed a decree stipulating a pardon for prisoners who are not involved in crimes against the state's security or respect for the state, public order, public money, and also crimes related to the family and ethics.

Following this measure, 6000 prisoners were released on this great occasion.

Parties on Revision of Constitution, Legislation

LD1401145993 Algiers APS in English 1136 GMT 14 Jan 93

[Text] Algiers, 14/01/93 (APS)—Beyond their positions on modes and frameworks of management of the transitional period, influential political parties grant a particular interest to the question to adapt with the transitional period, laws promulgated during the previous period notably the Constitution and the statutes which are inspired from them such as the code of information, the law on political associations and the electoral law. Political parties are also thinking about institutions which have the right to revise or to renew the Constitution and its laws, in the absence of an elected National Assembly.

The National Liberation Front (FLN) estimated that sides involved in the dialogue are, during the transitional period, to abide by the Constitution of February 23, 1989, as parties could agree, if necessary on possible constitutional amendments of a"limited" scope, which will intervene following legislative and presidential elections.

On another turn, the FLN noted that a possible change of the Constitution or amendments to the present Constitution can intervene if the practice shows the necessity of it by the end of the legislature. The FLN considers that the coming back to the democratic process can take one of the two ways i.e. the organization of the election of a legislative assembly with direct vote on the basis of an electoral legislative system defined by sides involved in the dialogue and promulgated by the HCE (Higher State Committee). The HCE will continue to assume its functions by the side of the elected legislative assembly till the election of a president of the republic.

The second possibility consists in the election of a president of the republic with a direct vote on the basis of an electoral legislative system defined by sides involved in the dialogue and promulgated by the HCE.

The HCE mission will end by the election of the president of the republic who will convoke the electoral body for the election of a legislative assembly. The position of the Socialist Forces Front (FFS) was recently expressed by the leader of the party, Hocine Ait Ahmed who said that his party "believes in the existence of a credible constitution established by a constituent assembly". On its turn, the group of seven parties suggested the setting up of a "political formation" of consultation on modalities of management of the transitional period in the field of legislative and presidential, local elections without dealing with the question of the Constitution. On another turn, the group of seven called for the amendment, through the referendum, of the electoral law before the organization of presidential elections.

Nevertheless, certain parties belonging to the seven group unilaterally expressed themselves as to the Constitution. In this connection, Kasdi Merbah, president of the Movement for Justice and Democracy (MAJD), estimated that it is hoped that the amendment of the Constitution of February 23, comes in the frame of the programme of the candidate to the presidency for the purposes of "gaining time and ironing out political difficulties". On its turn, En-Nahda movement suggested the extension of the consultative council to parties which obtained the greatest number of votes during the last elections and to give to it prerogatives of the people's National Assembly dissolved on January 4, 1992. The Gathering for Culture and Democracy (RCD), in its document entitled "For the Republican Algeria" insisted on the necessity to revise the Constitution of February, 23, 1989 by a referendum in favour of "a balance of powers" and the "consecration of the principle of a republican state and the Algerian identity". On its turn, the Party of the Socialist Vanguard (PAGS) proposed "the elaboration of a new Constitution and the setting up of new political institutions stable and credible which abide by demands of the necessary rupture". [sentence as received] It is worth recalling that the constitutional vacuum resulting from the resignation on January 11, 1992 of the former president of the republic coinciding with the starting for a revision of the Constitution of February 23, 1989 and laws springing from them.

Egypt

Syrian Summit Comes at 'Critical' Time

NC1401151193 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1240 GMT 14 jan 93

[Muhammad Sharaf commentary: "An Urgent Egyptian-Syrian Summit Under Critical Circumstances Facing the Issue of Middle East Peace and Security"]

[Excerpts] The urgent Egyptian-Syrian summit Presidents Husni Mubarak and Hafiz al-Asad held in Damascus yesterday comes amid critical circumstances through which the fateful issue of Middle East peace and security is passing. Both leaders focused on two urgent priorities: The effects of the crisis of the Palestinian deportees on the peace process and Iraqi President Saddam Husayn's heedless and irresponsible provocations of Kuwait, the UN Security Council, and the international community. These provocations have led to an actual air strike by allied U.S., British, and French aircraft on Iraqi military targets.

President Mubarak expressed his regret over the escalation of the situation, stressing the importance of safeguarding the Iraqi people's security and territorial integrity. Both presidents stressed another important issue: They agreed not to sign the treaty banning the use of chemical weapons until Israel signs the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty. [passage omitted]

The Israeli Government's decision to deport Palestinians and its refusal to comply with Security Council Resolution 799, which provides for their immediate return home, foreshadows the peace process. The Saddam-led Iraqi regime embarks on incomprehensible acts that threaten Gulf security and have led to an aerial strike on Iraqi targets by U.S., British, and French aircraft. In fact, the Iraqi president's motives in defying the United Nations and the international community are incomprehensible. It seems that he has not learned the lesson from the enormous losses and divisions he has brought on the Iraqi people and Arab nation. The sincere Arab leaders and sons are still trying to contain these losses and divisions and to achieve a measure of Arab solidarity so as to allow the Arab peoples to defend their vital interests in a world rife with developments and conflicting interests and people willing to defend their interests tooth and nail. The only comment we have on the Iraqi regime's behavior is that it is high time that the Iraqi people and Arab nation find a way to defend themselves from this insanity. [passage omitted]

The Arab countries and peoples cannot stand with folded hands or apathy against the dangers threatening their social security and opportunities for progress, including attempts to interfere in their internal affairs by foreign powers and terrorist trends. However, farsightedness and caution make it incumbent on us to confront these attempts and trends. International problems, which may not directly affect Arab interests, will have long-term repercussions on the situation and interests in the Arab and Islamic world. Bosnia- Hercegovina is only one such example. There is no room to list all the vital problems that make Arab coordination and consultation a necessity.

We will focus on the dangers facing the Middle East peace process. We maintain that neither the Palestinians nor the other Arab parties are responsible for the dangers facing this historic process. The entire responsibility should fall on Israel's shoulders; its practices and stands run totally counter to conditions that must be met for the process to continue and for the cherished results to be achieved. This is in the interest of all parties, including Israel. There is still enough time to contain the situation before the date the talks are due to resume. The lion's

share of responsibility should be borne by Israel, particularly because the Arab parties have given definite proof since the start of the negotiations—despite Israeli intransigence—of their concern to continue the peace process until the goals are reached.

To sum up, yesterday's summit between Presidents Husni Mubarak and Hafiz al-Asad emphasized the extent to which both leaders' understand the dimension of the current critical stage through which the Arab people are passing. This stage is fraught with dangers, which should be confronted with wisdom and farsightedness in defense of the Arab nation's supreme vital interests and pan-Arab security.

Foreign Minister Views Deportees, Other Issues

NC1401154493 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 14 Jan 93

[Text] Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has said that the Arab foreign ministers resolution on the Palestinian deportees is unequivocal: It calls on the Security Council to debate and follow up the issue and implement the charters's appropriate clauses.

Musa added that there are still obstacles facing the convening of a summit and that the meeting needs solid preparation before taking place, particularly in view of the circumstances through which the Arab world is passing.

He also discussed the Western aerial attack on Iraq, saying that the Egyptian stand supports achieving stability in Iraq and safeguarding Iraqi national unity, territorial integrity, and the Iraqi people's safety. We hope that the use of force as a means to solve problems relating to Iraq will cease, that policy in the region will be cautious, and that the consequences of any move will be taken into account, he added. He stressed the need for respecting Security Council resolutions on this issue.

Musa said that Egypt's stand on Kuwait calls for protecting Kuwait's sovereignty and independence, adding: We are opposed to any claim to any part of Kuwait by any state. He noted that the dispute between Kuwait and Iraq was settled by the Security Council and, therefore, all that is needed is to implement the relevant Security Council resolutions.

Calls Gulf Events 'Regrettable'

NC1501100193 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0946 GMT 15 Jan 93

[Text] Cairo, 15 Jan (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has said the escalation of the situation in the Gulf as we saw it is regrettable.

In a statement today, Musa said: Egypt is greatly concerned about Iraq's territorial integrity and its people's security. It believes the Iraqi leadership's adventures expose Iraq to unjustifiable dangers.

Musa added: Egypt calls on the Iraqi leadership to adhere to the UN Security Council resolutions and not adopt any measures that might heighten the problems for the Iraqi people or increase tension in the region.

UN Attitude Toward Serbs, Israelis Criticized

NC1401212693 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2036 GMT 14 Jan 93

[Text] Cairo, 14 Jan (MENA)—AL-AHRAM chief editor Ibrahim Nafi' has strongly criticized Iraqi President Saddam Husayn, describing him as an adventurer who does not learn from his errors or history's lessons and who does not care about his people's lives, security, or future.

In an editorial column published by the newspaper tomorrow, Friday, Nafi' condemned Saddam's new adventures; he also condemned the use of force as a reaction to these adventures.

Nafi' called for a positive Arab stance on two issues: Saddam Husayn's adventures and the constant recourse to force [against him] without regard to the lives of the helpless Iraqis.

He said: What happened makes us wonder critically about international legitimacy, which does not follow a straight course and which constantly permits lightning attacks on the Iraqi people but is paralyzed and impotent when it comes to attacking the Serbs, who are violating all UN resolutions and perpetrating a most ugly ethnic and religious massacre against the people of Bosnia-Hercegovina.

AL-AHRAM's chief editor asks: Where is international legitimacy when it comes to the issue of the Palestinian deportees, an issue on which Israel defies all UN resolutions? Where is international legitimacy versus Israel's continued occupation of the Palestinian territories and its transformation of the Palestinian people into second- and third-class citizens?

Press Association Condemns Strike on Iraq

NC1401173993 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1647 GMT 14 Jan 93

[Text] Cairo, 14 Jan (MENA)—The Egyptian Journalists Association Council has condemned the aerial attack that the allied forces launched last night against the Iraqi people and their land, an attack that targeted missile bases inside the Iraqi borders. It described this attack as a flagrant violation of the sovereignty of a member state of the United Nations and the Arab League. In a statement released today, the Egyptian Journalists Association Council condemned this aggression and called on states and governments to respect peoples' sovereignty over their land and not interfere in the domestic affairs of nations so as to emphasize the borders of countries and their territorial integrity, including the borders of Iraq and Kuwait.

The statement noted that regional and domestic disputes and peoples denied rights are no longer treated according to one international standard. Selectivity and segregation play a role in the imposition of United Nations and Security Council resolutions. The statement said that this is manifest in the positions adopted toward the problems of the peoples of the Bosnia-Hercegovina and the Palestinian people in general, and the problem of the deportees in particular.

The statement exhorted press organizations to adopt positions that express their respect for peoples' aspirations and rights on their land and to denounce any foreign interference in their domestic affairs. The statement called on these organizations to defend a new world order that respects peoples and their sovereignty over their land and deal with all problems according to the same yardstick.

Libyan Delegate: Deportees Remain 'Basic Issue'

NC1401221293 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2012 GMT 14 Jan 93

[Text] Cairo, 14 Jan (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa met this evening with Dr. 'Ali al-Turayki, Libya's permanent delegate to the Arab League. Dr. Usamah al-Baz, Foreign Ministry first under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, also attended the meeting.

After the meeting, al-Turayki said that discussions centered on the results of the recent Arab foreign ministers conference in Cairo. He described the Arab position on the Palestinian deportees and their demand to the UN Security Council to implement Resolution 799 as a united position.

He added that the Arab position was also united over the issue of banning chemical weapons, noting that the majority of the Arab countries refused to sign the Paris agreement pertaining to the nonproliferation of chemical weapons and will not do so until Israel joins the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty.

Al-Turayki said that the issue of the Palestinian deportees remains the basic issue despite the attack on Iraq. He declared that world opinion supports a quick resolution of this issue and noted that the UN Security Council will meet soon following a request by the Arab foreign ministers and the UN secretary general's message in this connection.

The Libyan representative at the Arab League said he hopes that the Arab position over the Palestinian deportees will remain united so that it may be possible to implement the Security Council's resolution.

Writer Urges Sanctions Against Israel

NC1501122993 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 13 Jan 93 p 9

[Editorial: "Arabs, Deportees"]

[Text] Despite Arab and international attempts to convince the Israeli Government to back down on its decision to deport over 400 Palestinians from their homes, the Yitzhaq Rabin-led Labor government still insists on its refusal to allow the deportees back.

The Arab world, especially the cordon states, certainly possess many cards that can be used with Israel and the world.

With respect to Israel, a clear and decisive position must be adopted—namely, settlement negotiations cannot resume before the deportees are returned. The continuing Israeli intransigence will also leave its mark—a negative one—on Egyptian-Israeli relations.

As for the global community, the Arabs can call on international institutions and organizations to play their role, in implementing Security Council Resolution 799 or in issuing new resolutions involving sanctions on Israel to force it to comply with Resolution 799. It is illogical for Israel to remain excluded from sanctions while it blatantly violates international law, the UN Charter, and Security Council resolutions, especially with the big powers crowing about the implementation of UN resolutions against Iraq. So the world is called upon to issue a new Security Council resolution imposing sanctions against Israel so that Third World peoples may not lose their faith in international institutions, particularly the United Nations.

U.S. Criticized for Hosting 'Terrorist' Meeting

NC1401141493 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 11 Jan 93 p 7

[Article by Khalid al-Sawi: "Truth of American Terrorism Role"]

[Text] In a new and serious development, al-Jihad Mufti Dr. 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman—who has lived in the United States since 1990 and was granted nationality by marrying an American woman—has invited leaders of Islamic factions abroad to a meeting in a New Jersey mosque during the first half of Rajab, the second part of January. The meeting was called to discuss organizational issues, to unite the factions and fronts of political Islam in Egypt, and to plan future terrorist operations after the Interior Ministry's terrorism clampdown following the rejection of an offer by 'Abd-al-Rahman to halt aggression on tourists in return for lifting the security blockade on terrorist elements in upper Egypt.

This certainly means the terrorists are awaiting the outcome of that meeting to escalate their operations. It also leads us to speculate on the truth of the American position on terrorism. The United States, which claims to fight terrorism and which imposed the severest economic sanctions against Libya to force it to hand over the people accused of blowing up the Lockerbie plane, is the same country that harbors the terrorist who attacks Egypt and its people. This raises a big question. The United States previously let terrorists hold meetings that

included Rached Ghannouchi from Tunisia and Hasan al-Turabi from Sudan. 'Abd-al-Rahman's stance is known, declared, and does not require directing American intelligence or its satellites to learn about its association with terrorism. The man expresses himself clearly day after day; his statements to the British paper THE INDEPENDENT were made inside the United States. In these statements he declared that he would keep up his call, his warning to tourists to stay away from Egypt, and his determination to restore the caliph's state.

The American stand on terrorism poses a twofold question:

1. Does the United States believe in the possibility of Islamists' control of authority and so prefer to protect future relations with them by avoiding a clash with them now?

2. Does the United States use terrorism as a trump card to put pressure on and gain strategic points in its political dealings with terrorism-infected states, primarily Egypt?

We want more light to be shed to clarify the real American stand on terrorism and to put things straight.

Premier Carries Mubarak Message to Tunisia

NC1401132093 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1127 GMT 14 Jan 93

[Text] Cairo, 14 Jan (MENA)—Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi left Cairo for Tunis today on a four-day official visit at the invitation of Tunisian Prime Minister Hamed Karoui.

Dr. Sidqi will lead the Egyptian side in the meetings of the third session of the Higher Joint Egyptian-Tunisian Committee.

Sidqi also will deliver a message from President Husni Mubarak to Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali.

The prime minister is accompanied by the ministers of housing, transport and communications, electricity, industry, economy, international cooperation, education, petroleum, and the minister of state for cabinet affairs.

Mubarak Receives Polish Parliamentary Delegation

NC1101164293 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1043 GMT 11 Jan 93

[Text] Cairo, 11 Jan (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak received a Polish parliamentary delegation currently visiting Cairo at the presidential palace in Heliopolis today. The delegation is led by Wieslaw Chrzanowski.

The meeting was attended by People's Assembly Speaker Fathi Surur and Dr. Muhammad 'Abd-al-Ilah, chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee in the People's Assembly.

The head of the Polish parliamentary delegation made a statement after the meeting that he renewed Polish President Walesa's invitation to President Mubarak to visit Poland. He said President Mubarak accepted the invitation. The visit will take place soon.

The Polish official added that talks with President Mubarak dealt with bilateral relations and how to bolster them in various fields, in addition to international problems and events of mutual interest.

He affirmed that there are many problems in the world, especially in former Yugoslavia and the former Soviet republics, which concern the international community. He said that Egypt and Poland agree that war is not an effective way to end international conflicts, adding that dialogue and negotiations should be carried out.

He clarified that both nations want to strengthen parliamentary cooperation and that the parliamentary delegation's visit comes within this framework.

Dr. Muhammad 'Abd-al-Ilah said that the head of the parliamentary delegation conveyed to President Mubarak the appreciation and admiration of the Polish Government and people for the vanguard role Egypt is playing in the Middle East peace process.

He said the international situation was reviewed in general, including Bosnia-Hercegovina and the effects and dangers of the situation there on the new world order.

Solidarity Committee With Sudan Meets

NC1401191493 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 14 Jan 93

[Text] The Egyptian-Sudanese Solidarity Committee met today under Ahmad Hamrush, chairman of the Egyptian Solidarity Committee, and Ahmad Yahya, chairman of the Egyptian-Sudanese Committee for Solidarity Between the Sudanese Opposition Leaders in Egypt and Egyptian Media. During the meeting, they discussed the possibility of cooperation between Egyptian media and Sudanese leaders living in Egypt to clarify events in Sudan for the Egyptian public. They also discussed establishing a type of liaison between the Egyptian Press Association and the Sudanese Press Association, formed by Sudanese journalists living in Egypt who have been forced to leave their country.

They also put forward a number of proposals related to liaison between the Egyptian and Sudanese committees and the Egyptian media. They debated holding monthly meetings for those interested in Sudanese affairs, to exchange views, and to establish an information committee and issue a weekly and daily publication on Sudan's news.

Extremist Accused of Wounding Policemen Caught

NC1301173093 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1450 GMT 13 Jan 93

[Excerpts] Asyut, 13 Jan (MENA)—Last night security forces arrested one of the leaders of extremist groups in the town of Abu Tij, Asyut Governorate. He is accused of firing at and wounding the local police chief in Abu Tij along with two other policemen and assaulting some Christians in the area.

First Lieutenant Muhammad Shawqi Husayn, from the Abu Tij police station, laid an ambush last night at the entrance to the town for suspect Faysal Bahiy-al-Din Mahmud, a 26-year-old student at Asyut College of Commerce, who is accused on several charges. The extremist tried to drive past the ambush on his motorcycle, but the officer fired five bullets in the air to stop him. He was in possession of a shotgun, five rounds of ammunition, and antigovernment pamphlets when arrested. [passage omitted]

Seventy pamphlets were confiscated with the extremist. The pamphlets were entitled: "Faraj Fudah [Egyptian writer killed in 1992] is a cancer that has been removed by the Islamic Groups." He also carried another pamphlet, which was entitled: "Secular blood and Islamic blood." The extremist has been referred to the prosecutor for questioning.

Libya

Tribes Claim Justice Minister Victim of Plot

PM1501080293 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 13 Jan 93 p 4

[Unattributed report: "Al-'Ubaydat Tribes in Libya: Bakkar Was the Victim of a Terrorist Plot"]

[Text] London, AL-HAYAH—A statement issued in the name of "al-'Ubaydat tribes in Libya" and distributed by opposition sources in Europe, says that former Justice Minister Ibrahim Bakkar who, according to Tripoli, was killed in a car accident on his way back from Tunis, was actually the victim "of a terrorist plot by the ruling clique" in Libya.

The statement, a copy of which was received by AL-HAYAH, said that the late minister had differences with leader al-Qadhdhafi and the ruling organs on several issues "including the investigations into the crash of the Libyan airliner last December and the attempt of the revolutionary committees to conceal the traces of the crime. The justice minister also exposed embezzlement of public funds and exposed the use of guesthouses for prostitution. He also revealed that the revolutionary committees were the main source of funds in the foreign currency trade and the only importer of drugs and alcohol."

In conclusion, the statement said that "al-'Ubaydat [tribes] will not let the blood of their son go unavenged and wreaking vengeance on al-Qadhdhafi and his henchmen is the sacred duty of all sons of the tribe."

Mauritania

PLO's 'Arafat Visits for Talks With President

AB1301112793 Nouakchott ORTM Radio in French 0730 GMT 13 Jan 93

[Text] The Palestinian leader, Yasir 'Arafat, visited Mauritania on 12 January. During his visit, president 'Arafat held talks with the Mauritanian head of state, President Maaouiya Ould Sid 'Ahmed Taya.

Before leaving our country, Mr. 'Arafat said that his talks with President Ould Taya were very warm, fruitful, and positive. He said he briefed President Ould Taya on the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] meeting that took place in Dakar on 11 January. That meeting, he said, unanimously adopted important resolutions relating to the situation of more than 400 Palestinians expelled from Palestine by Israel. The ICO also called on the UN Security Council to demand that Israel implement UN Resolution 799 on the return of these Palestinians and, if the need arises, use force as stipulated in Chapter 7 of the resolution.

President 'Arafat also talked about the need for international protection for the Palestinians who live in daily terror under Israel, especially women and children. The PLO also reaffirmed that Jerusalem is the capital of Palestine.

President 'Arafat expressed his gratitude to the head of state and people of Mauritania for their constant support to the just Palestinian cause.

He was seen off by the Mauritanian prime minister, the members of the government, and the Palestinian ambassador to Mauritania.

Remarks on Departure

LD1201220893 Nouakchott ORTM Radio in Arabic 2030 GMT 12 Jan 93

[Excerpts] Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat left Nouakchott this evening after a visit to our country during which he was received by and held talks with President Maaouiya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya. [passage omitted]

The Palestinian president replied to questions asked by the national press in the airport VIP room. Regarding his talks with the president of the republic, President 'Arafat said:

[Begin recording] ['Arafat] It was a truly warm, fruitful, and positive meeting. As is usual with my brother the

president, he takes a committed, fraternal, and principled stance regarding the issues of Palestine and Jerusalem. [passage omitted]

[Unidentified reporter] Mr. president, in light of the international consensus on the need to return deported Palestinians and to reach an urgent settlement in the Palestine issue, the ball is in the Israeli court, or should I say in the international court and more precisely in the UN court. How do you view the issue of the deportees after this great international consensus?

['Arafat] In reality, the ball is not in Israel's court. [passage omitted] Now, the ball is in the American court, in the court of the sponsors of the peace conference—the United States and Russia—and in the court of the five permanent members of the UN Security Council. Does international legitimacy have a single standard or two standards; a standard in favor of Israel and one against the Arab nation and the Palestinians? [passage omitted] [end recording]

Respect Urged for Iraq's Territorial Integrity

LD1401212293 Nouakchott ORTM Radio in Arabic 2030 GMT 14 Jan 93

[Text] Following the raid on Iraq on Wednesday evening, an authoritative source today told the Mauritanian news agency that Mauritania calls for Iraq's sovereignty and territorial integrity to be respected and hopes the international community will find a solution to all the problems existing in the region through negotiations and with respect for international legitimacy.

Morocco

Senegalese President Leaves After Talks With King

LD1101133093 Rabat MAP in English 1219 GMT 11 Jan 93

[Text] Casablanca, Jan.11 (MAP)—President Abdou Diouf of Senegal wound up Sunday a private visit to Morocco, during which he had a tete-a-tete meeting with King Hassan II at the Royal Palace of Fes.

In a departure statement, Abdou Diouf said the visit contributed to further consolidating Moroccan-Senegalese ties, adding that the talks with King Hassan II were marked by fraternity and reflected a complete agreement on all topics tackled, including bilateral cooperation and the major international issues.

The talks covered the holding of the meeting of the Organization of Islamic Conference "OIC" Bureau as of this Monday in Dakar, which will look into the problem of the deported Palestinians and the ordeal of Moslems in Bosnia-Hercegovina, the Senegalese president said.

Zaire's Mobutu Arrives on Brief Working Visit

AB1401202793 Paris AFP in French 1959 GMT 14 Jan 93

[Text] Fez, 14 Jan (AFP)—Zaire's President Mobutu Sese Seko arrived this afternoon in Fes, where King Hassan II currently lives, on a visit to Morocco, official sources reported.

No details were given by the same sources on the purpose of his visit. According to the Zairian press agency, Marshal Mobutu is paying this "brief working visit" to Morocco at the invitation of the Moroccan monarch.

PPS Urges Opposition To Unite in Bloc for Election

LD1201141393 Rabat MAP in English 1312 GMT 12 Jan 93

[Text] Rabat, Jan 12 (MAP)—The daily AL BAYANE expressed hope members of the Kutlah (Democratic Bloc/Opposition) will engage in coming elections under the sign of union with common candidates on grounds of a single programme. Commenting on recent statements by USFP [Popular Union of Socialist Forces] leader Abderrahmane Yousfi, the daily of the Party for Progress and Socialism [PPS] said the call for unity has reactivated political debate. The legislative elections of April 30 will be a turning point in the democratic process and ought to be approached under the Kutlah if the oppositions objectives are to be reached, AL BAYANE says.

For the PPS daily, Yousfi's speech on Jan 9 which marked the first anniversary of the late Abderrahim Bouabid is a genuine blueprint for a joint programme to enable the bloc take on coming challenges.

Sudan

Al-Bashir Condemns Allied Raid on Iraq

EA1501113093 Khartoum SUNA in English 0930 GMT 15 Jan 93

[Text] Khartoum, 15 Jan (SUNA)—Chairman of the RCC [Revolution Command Council] Gen 'Umar al-Bashir has condemned the allied recent raid aggression on Iraq.

In a press statement at the Friendship Hall Thursday [14 January], Gen al-Bashir expressed Sudan's sorrow over the aggression, saying the aggression took place at time Sudan was expecting the lifting of economic embargo measures from Iraq. A matter that may result to great disaster, instability and peace, threatening at the area. The allied states hastily take decisions on condemning Iraq at the time their decision on other issue remain an ink on paper, Gen al-Bashir said, tacking the issue of the Palestinian deportees, Muslims' genocide in Bosnia-Hercegovina and the human abuses in the Serbian and detention camps.

Further on News Conference

EA1401220193 Omdurman Sudan Broadcasting Service Network in English 1800 GMT 14 Jan 93

[Excerpts] Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, chairman of the Revolution Command Council and prime minister, held a press conference at the Friendship Hall in Khartoum this afternoon. [passage omitted]

He said that the congress system was adopted as an ideal system for the government in the Sudan to evade the disadvantages of the past regimes. [passage omitted]

He also stressed Sudan's obligation to the human rights issue, and said that though it is not the intention of the Revolution Command Council dissolving itself now, remarking that the council has the power to dissolve itself. [sentence as heard] He said there are changes that will be affected by the transfer of power from the central government to the state governments.

Concerning the question of the south, al-Bashir said it is a political problem, and that we are confident that the solution will not come through military action but it should be through peaceful negotiations. Gen. al-Bashir expressed the government's readiness for the next round of talks with the rebel movement and said: We are awaiting the agreement of the movement's factions and we are keen they take part in such talks.

On the other hand, the Revolution Command Council chairman emphasized that there are no terrorist organizations or camps in the Sudan, and that the Sudanese people have not known terrorism throughout their history. He also underlined that the religious tolerance found in the Sudan is not existing in any of the countries which accused the Sudan.

The revolution leader also touched on the Sudanese-Egyptian relations, stressing Sudan's keenness to respect the relations between the two countries, and reaffirming at the same time, that we would not (?concede) any inch of Sudan's territories.

Gen. 'Umar al-Bashir concluded the press conference by expressing great anxiety towards the Western alliance's aggression on Iraq, pointing out that this aggression threatens the security and peace of the region.

Military Denies Intention To Step Down

PM1501075493 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 13 Jan 93 pp 1, 4

[Mu'awiyah Yasin report: "Al-Turabi's Statements Anger Sudanese Government"]

[Excerpts] London—The statements which Dr. Hasan al-Turabi, secretary general of the General Islamic Arab Popular Congress, made to REUTER yesterday, in which he said that "Sudan's military rulers will step down in the coming weeks or months," have provoked an angry reaction from the Sudanese Government, which has said that al-Turabi does not speak for it. It added that what he said is untrue. It is not clear whether there is a disagreement between the military ruling Sudan and the Islamic movement backing them.

REUTER quoted Al-Turabi, secretary general of the National Islamic Front, whose activists say that it has had no presence since Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir's government decided to dissolve political parties in 1989, as saying that the ruling National Salvation Revolution Council—the highest executive authority in the country—"has become a symbolic body which seldom convenes and is no longer needed." He also said that the council would dissolve itself and that its members would step down in the coming weeks or months. [passage omitted]

But a high-ranking official in Lt. Gen. al-Bashir's office told AL-HAYAH over the telephone yesterday that what al-Turabi said about the military council's dissolution "is untrue." He added: "The (Sudanese) president addressed the parliament's new session the day before yesterday and spoke about expected changes in federal rule structures and institutions, but he did not broach the council's dissolution."

Another official, who asked to remain anonymous, said that the council will be dissolved "at the right time." However, he added angrily: "It is not al-Turabi's business."

A few months ago AL-HAYAH pointed out that there was an agreement between the military and the Islamic movement backing them to dissolve the council after the completion of the elections for the legislative councils of the provinces in preparation for electing a federal parliament. [passage omitted]

Al-Bashir Receives Message From 'Arafat

EA1001215493 Khartoum SUNA in English 1658 GMT 10 Jan 93

[Text] Khartoum, 10 Jan (SUNA)—Chairman of the RCC [Revolution Command Council], General 'Umar al-Bashir, met Sunday [10 January] at his office at the Council of Ministers' general secretariat the Palestinian ambassador to Sudan, Abu Raja'i. The Palestinian ambassador handed Gen. Bashir a written message from president Yasir 'Arafat dealing with the common issues between the two countries and the development of the Arab arena and the Palestinian cause.

Al-Bashir Opens Islamic Human Rights Session

EA1201212693 Khartoum SUNA in English 1628 GMT 12 Jan 93

[Text] Khartoum, 12 Jan (SUNA)—The chairman of the RCC [Revolution Command Council], [Lieutenant] Gen 'Umar al-Bashir, attended at the Friendship Hall

Tuesday [12 January] the inaugural session of the Conference on Human Rights in Islam being organised by the Sudanese Bar Association.

Member of the conference's steering committee, Amin Banani, has addressed the session, explaining that the conference is regarded as a forum for intellectual political dialogue to discuss human rights in Islam. He indicated that the conference will also tackle human rights in the framework of current international changes and the so- called new world order. Banani, meanwhile, has called for establishment of an international organisation to authenticate human rights in Islam to back up causes of oppressed people in the world.

Representative of Liberty, [the] British organisation, Azzam Etamimi [name as received], has also addressed the session, saying that the human rights in Islam covers more aspects and the West does not imagine that Islam respects human rights. Etamimi said that the western mass media campaign against the Sudan is targetting the Sudan's Islamic orientation. He enumerated the false allegations being directed against the Sudan by western mass media.

The conference was attended by delegations from Yemen, Syria, Egypt, Kenya, South Africa, Germany and Britain, in addition to representatives of local, foreign, Arab and African mass media.

The conference on human rights in Islam held its first working session at the Friendship Hall Tuesday. The session, which was chaired by member of Yemeni parliament and a senior official of Yemeni human rights organisation, Dr 'Abd-al-Ghani Qasim Ghalib, reviewed a paper on social and economic rights in Islam presented by the president of the Sudanese Bar Association, 'Ali al-Nasri.

Al-Nasri reviewed the differences between the Islamic economic system and capitalism and communism. He pointed to violations of human rights posed by the capitalist economic system as it is based on materialistic principles solely. A comparison between the social and economic rights in international conventions and those in Islam was also presented by Nasri's working paper.

The conference also discussed another working paper on the duties of men and women from an Islamic perspective, presented by Prof 'Abd al-Abdullah Uthman.

Meanwhile, the Iraqi Bar Association has sent a cable to the conference condemning the dual standards adopted by western countries toward human rights issue, said the rapporteur of the conference, Mustassim Muhammad al-Tawm. The cable pointed that the west turns a deaf ear to what is going on in the Israeli-occupied Arab territories and the children and the aged in Iraq who die as a result of the injust siege imposed on Iraq, condemning U.N. allegations as regards human rights situation in Sudan.

Al-Bashir Issues Decree Releasing 463 Prisoners

EA1301185393 Omdurman National Unity Radio in Arabic 1315 GMT 13 Jan 93

[Text] Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir, chairman of the Revolution Command Council and the Council of Ministers issued a decree on 12 January releasing 463 prisoners. He said the decree covered prisoners in all states of Sudan.

He said the decree was issued as part of the Independence Day [1 January] celebrations and that it was customary to release a number of people from prison each year. He said the national salvation revolution was committed to peace and shari'ah, and thus people were released from prison whenever there was such an occasion. He said that after their release, the prisoners should continue with their normal duties.

Egyptian Labor Party Leader Pays Visit

EA1401231693 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1545 GMT 13 Jan 93

[Text] Khartoum, 13 Jan (SUNA)—Engineer Ibrahim Shukri, chairman of the Egyptian Labor Party, has spoken of the need to establish a broad popular movement in order to halt the deterioration in Sudanese-Egyptian relations. He called for an improvement in relations between the two countries and the clearing of the atmosphere between them. His excellency added, in an interview with AL-QUWWAT AL-MUSALLAHAH newspaper, that the Labor Party is making every effort to strengthen Sudanese-Egyptian relations and to remove anything which may weaken them. His excellency said that his meetings with Sudanese officials during his current visit to Sudan had reflected a clear appreciation of the relations between the two countries.

Agreement Reached on Repatriation of Ethiopian Refugees

EA1401231293 Khartoum SUNA in English 0925 GMT 14 Jan 93

[Text] Khartoum, 14 Jan (SUNA)—A final agreement was reached Wednesday [13 January] on a memo of understanding between the Governments of Sudan, Ethiopia and the [UN] High Commission for Refugees [UNHCR] on the voluntary repatriation of the Ethiopian refugees in Sudan, announced the state minister of refugees affairs, Brig (Retd) Abd al-Rahman Sirr al-Khatim. The memo comprising the principles and general bases for the voluntary repatriation, in addition to the guarantees arranged by the Ethiopian Government for the returnees and the assistance which would be rendered to the environment affected by the refugees, he said.

Sirr al-Khatim announced that the Ethiopian minister of interior will arrive to Khartoum next week to sign the joint declaration and the memo of understanding with

the Government of Sudan and the UNHCR prior to begin the implementary steps of the repatriation.

'First Independent' Paper AL-KHARTUM To Reappear

NC1301110893 Cairo ROSE AL-YUSUF in Arabic 11 Jan 93 p 13

[Text] AL-KHARTUM newspaper, the first independent Sudanese paper, will reappear in the next few weeks. The paper was suspended on 30 June 1989 as part of a decision to suspend all Sudanese publications.

AL-KHARTUM, the most popular and widely distributed publication during the Third Democracy period, will be reissued in London and be published simultaneously in London and Cairo. It will be dispatched daily to all Arab states.

The newspaper is published by Dr. al-Baqir Ahmad 'Abdallah, a noted Arab thinker who was among the first group to graduate from the Mass Communications Department at Cairo University. He earned a Ph.D. in political science.

Fadlallah Muhammad, a well-known Sudanese journalist, will serve as AL-KHARTUM's chief editor.

Tunisia

Foreign Minister Signs Convention on Chemical Weapons

LD1401092493 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0700 GMT 14 Jan 93

[Text] After he signed the convention banning experiments on, production, storing, and use of chemical weapons on behalf of Tunisia at the UNESCO Headquarters in Paris yesterday, Foreign Minister Habib Ben Yahya stressed the understanding by Tunisia, a peaceful country, of the need to work for peace. He affirmed that Tunisia has chosen the line of development and cooperation and has been working for overall and complete disarmament.

On this occasion, he called for taking into account the concerns expressed by the developing countries during the negotiations, including their right to freely join in peaceful technology in the chemical domain, and to supply themselves with the equipment and instruments pertaining to this domain.

Mr. Ben Yahya underlined that Tunisia is convinced that ridding the world of the weapons of mass destruction has become the responsibility of all and not the mission of just some countries to the exclusion of others.

Foreign Minister Discusses Maghreb Unity Prospects

PM1301141693 London AL-WASAT in Arabic 11 Jan 93 pp 24-25

[Interview with Foreign Minister Habib Ben Yahya by 'Abd-al-Latif al-Furati in Tunis; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Al-Furati] How do you view the results of the latest Maghreb summit conference, held in the Mauritanian capital Nouakchott in November? Will these results put Maghreb action back on track, particularly as 1992 has been a year of Maghreb slow action or inaction?

[Ben Yahya] Our assessment of the progress made is different from the media's assessment. I understand that the delay in holding the Maghreb summit conference in 1992 gave the impression that the Maghreb march was slowing down or even experiencing some cracks. The truth is that there were objective reasons for the delay, but that does not mean that the various bodies have stopped functioning. The follow-up committee and the ministerial and expert committees have met frequently under the supervision of Mohamed 'Amamou, secretary general of the Arab Maghreb Union [AMU]. Throughout 1992 we worked for the consolidation of the AMU bodies selecting supervisors and headquarters in the various Maghreb capitals. [passage omitted] It can be said that the end result of the foundation period has been encouraging. We have succeeded in establishing the principle of political consultation and in regulating summit, ministerial, and expert meetings. Fifteen documents were signed and most of them ratified by the Maghreb states. In the historical and objective sense, one is bound to be optimistic because of the importance of the work already done. [passage omitted]

[Al-Furati] Have the UN sanctions against Libya not impeded joint Maghreb action?

[Ben Yahya] Every crisis in the region has an effect. The embargo imposed on Libya has affected exchanges in the Maghreb context and has affected the general political atmosphere. We have repeatedy said that that crisis does not serve peace and stability nor does it serve the joint Maghreb march. That is why we have, as states, individually, bilaterally, and collectively, and at the level of the Arab League's seven-member committee as well as all other Arab levels, examined the possibilities of finding a just and honorable solution to Libya's crisis with the three Western states (the United States, Britain, and France) in accordance with international legitimacy. That is what we said in the final statement of the recent Maghreb foreign ministers conference in Rabat in which we expressed our concern at the continuation of the current situation and our willingness to intensify contacts with all parties concerned, with the Libyan brothers' approval, assistance, and sense of responsibility, to find the desired solution. We note here that, although we would like them to change for the better, the latest Security Council resolutions on the matter have

reflected a commitment against escalation. No additional measures have been taken against Libya. This opens the way for us in the Maghreb in general and in Tunisia in particular, as we assumed the AMU presidency this January, to make extensive efforts with all the parties concerned at Arab and Maghreb levels to resolve the Libyan-Western crisis. We all feel responsible and are aware of the dangers.

[Al-Furati] But the Libyan officials blame the rest of the Masghreb parties for what they call lack of solidarity with Libya and commitment to the implementation of the sanctions against Libya.

[Ben Yahya] That assessment is incorrect.

[Al-Furati] These are declared Libyan positions.

[Ben Yahya] Our conversations with the brother Libyan officials show appreciation for all the Maghreb and Arab efforts which have produced a result which, although unsatisfactory to us, still means no escalation and no new measures against Libya. Our success in containing that crisis is incomplete but it shows what the Maghreb states and some other Arab states have done to find a solution. [passage omitted]

[Al-Furati] When will the next Maghreb summit be held, and will all the members, that is all the heads of state, attend, or will it fail, as previous summits did, in bringing all the leaders of the five states together?

[Ben Yahya] After the recent Nouakchott summit resolution, a summit conference will now be held once a year, not twice, as in the past since the foundation four years ago. Early in 1993 we will meet at the foreign ministers level to set the agenda for our activities and regular meetings and set a date for the next summit. We hope the situation in the region and the entire world will change. The Maghreb states want to unify their ranks, form a Maghreb common market and enhance development within it, and give political and economic coordination a dimension of unity. As Maghreb states we have no alternative to coordination and unity. I do not believe that there is a Maghreb state which is not convinced of that. That is why we not only hope the summit conference will be held in Tunis in 1993, but we will also seek to make it a success, particularly as President Ben Ali is renowned for his reconciliatory role between the Maghreb states.

TV Inaugurates Maghreban Programs

LD1301181293 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 13 Jan 93

[Excerpt] Mr. Abdelhafidh Hargem, director general of the Tunisian Radio and Television Enterprise, has said that the introduction of a Maghreban slot in the national television channel-7, broadcast by satellite, confirms Tunisia's attachment to the realization of the Arab Maghreb. In a statement to LA PRESSE published today, he stressed President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali's conviction of the importance of the role played by the information media in building the Arab Maghreb.

Hargem said that the Maghreban slot, which started on 2 January by decision of President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, at a time when Tunisia took over the chairmanship of the Arab Maghreb Union [AMU], is received in the AMU member countries, the Middle East, and Europe, in addition to the former Soviet Union countries.

He added that the Maghreban slot, which is broadcast on channel-7 of Tunisian television, consists of daily three-hour programs devoted to subjects pertaining to the Arab Maghreb: a Maghreban news bulletin, a sports program, a program of Maghreban arts, and a variety program called "Arab Maghreb Without Borders." [passage omitted]

UGTT Calls Off Planned Teachers' Strike

LD1301142393 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 13 Jan 93

[Text] A statement issued by the Tunisian General Union of Labor [UGTT] states that in light of the progress achieved in the sectorial negotiations between the Ministry of Education and Sciences and the General Union of Primary Education over the demands included in the general motion issued by the sectorial administrative body that convened on 23 November 1992, and in view of the readiness which the education and sciences minister has affirmed to find suitable solutions to the demands, which require bilateral committees to discuss them seriously, the UGTT Executive Bureau and the General Union of Primary Education announce the postponement of the strike scheduled for Thursday, 14 January 1993.

Western Sahara

OAU Secretary General Pays Official Visit

LD1201220593 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in French 1800 GMT 12 Jan 93

[Text] OAU Secretary General Salim Ahmed Salim has been in the Western Sahara on an official visit since this morning. This visit by the OAU secretary general to the liberated territories of the Saharan Arab Democratic Republic [SADR] falls within the framework of the constant interest which this African organization takes in the Saharan question. We take stock of Mr. Ahmed Salim's first day with our correspondent, Majid Laguel.

[Laguel] After meeting the Saharan president, Mr. Salim Ahmed Salim said his visit to the liberated territories comes at a time when the African organization is backing with all its strength the UN peace plan for the Western Sahara, which would allow that territory to exercise its right to self-determination. He added that only a just and lasting solution can settle the Saharan question.

Mr. Ahmed Salim stressed his satisfaction with this preliminary meeting with President Abdelaziz. The latter announced that the Saharan Republic supports the UN peace plan, and will do everything in its power to help this plan to take concrete form, in accordance with Security Council Resolution 690.

Mr. Ahmed Salim added that it is the OAU's duty today to settle all conflicts affecting Africa, whether in the Western Sahara, Liberia, or Somalia.

The OAU secretary general ended his statement by stressing that the OAU will guarantee the search for a just peace for the Western Saharan conflict, but there is no question of a solution being implemented to the detriment of one state or another; this is the case for all the conflicts affecting Africa.

The main discussions between President Abdelaziz and Mr. Salim Ahmed Salim will begin tomorrow. The two officials will naturally discuss the Saharan cause on the basis of new proposals which the OAU secretary general is reported to have brought with him.

This is Majid Laguel, in the liberated territories of the Western Sahara.

Meets President

LD1401084993 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in French 2130 GMT 13 Jan 93

[Text] OAU Secretary General Salim Ahmed Salim has ended his visit to Western Sahara. He said to be satisfied with his talks with the president of the Saharan Democratic Arab Republic. Our special correspondent, Majid Laguel, reviews the visit:

[Begin Laguel recording] The OAU will from now on play the role in the UN peace plan that the pan-African organization considers to be its own. The OAU will do everything to conclude the peace process positively and with no change to UN Security Council Resolution 690. The OAU will also not accept any solution going against any people. It can thus be said that after a long period of silence, the African organization has taken a firm stand for a just and permanent solution of the Sahrawi problem. The region's stability is at stake, according to the OAU secretary general. These are the key elements in Salim Ahmed Salim's remarks made during his visit to the liberated territories of Western Sahara. [end recording]

As he was in the area Majid Laguel took the opportunity to interview Mohamed Abdelaziz, the president of the Saharan Democratic Arab Republic:

[Begin Abdelaziz recording] I can say that the OAU secrretary general's visit was fruitful. We insisted, the OAU secretary general and I, that the settlement plan for Western Sahara remains based on UN Security Council Resolution 690. It is the best and only solution, and thus it is a gain for the Sahrawi side and for the Moroccan people. We agreed that both the Sahrawi party and the OAU will have to defend this result and we will have to implement it. [end recording]

Kuwait

Prime Minister Inspects Forces on Northern Border

LD1401204993 Kuwait KSC Television in Arabic 1800 GMT 14 Jan 93

[Excerpts] His Highness Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah, the heir apparent and prime minister, paid a visit at 0930 this morning to the units of our Armed Forces stationed in the areas of the northern border. He made the visit to inspect the preparations and military efforts to confront any sudden event and repel any possible aggression from anyone with schemes or any criminal aggressor. [passage omitted]

[Begin Shaykh Sa'd recording] We do not want in fact to commit aggression against any side. However, it is our right to defend our land, our entity, our homeland, and our pride. Thus we will not allow the head of the [?hateful] Baghdad regime or any other side [word indistinct] which carry out any act of aggression. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Information Minister Views Allied Raid on Iraq

NC1501135193 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0610 GMT 15 Jan 93

[Telephone interview with Information Minister Sa'ud Nasir al-Sabah, in Kuwait, by Shihatah Abu-al-Majd, in Cairo; date not given—recorded; from the "Dialogue From Afar" program]

[Text] [Abu-al-Majd] Minister, welcome to the Voice of the Arabs.

[Al-Sabah] Thanks very much. It is a good opportunity to be with the brothers in Egypt on the Voice of the Arabs in these circumstances.

[Abu-al-Majd] In fraternal Kuwait, how do you view this stage, these foolish acts perpetrated by the head of the Iraqi regime, Saddam Husayn, which again subjected Iraq to the recent allied air raid?

[Al-Sabah] Our view is that the Iraqi regime will hurt its people and country with these acts and violations of Security Council resolutions. This raid indicates the international will to implement all the provisions of Security Council resolutions. The Iraqi regime's challenge to the international will and legitimacy will increase the allied forces' resolve to make Iraq implement all the Security Council resolutions. We regret that the Iraqi people and land should be subjected to these air raids, but the responsibility lies with the Iraqi regime, which brings these actions upon its people, land, and country.

[Abu-al-Majd] Do you believe this air strike on Saddam Husayn's regime will force him to implement Security Council resolutions or do you believe he still pursues intransigence and stubbornness—as he is used to doing—and subjects the Iraqi people to danger?

[Al-Sabah] I imagine the series of operations will continue until the Iraqi regime abides by Security Council resolutions. The Iraqi regime's stubbornness against the international will is of no use to the Iraqi people. We have always called on the Iraqi people to take things into their own hands, solve their problems, and end this regime that isolated itself and its country and people from the world—not only the Arab world, but the whole world. We hope this will happen so that things will return to normal. I see this operation as part of a series of operations to force Iraq to accept Security Council resolutions.

[Abu-al-Majd] What is the Kuwaiti Army stand in light of these continuing Iraqi threats to the UN-supervised demilitarized zone and this regime's continuing violations of Kuwaiti sovereignty?

[Al-Sabah] Iraq's violations of Security Council resolutions are many. First, there is the regime's continuing detention of Kuwaiti hostages and prisoners of war, its violations of the Kuwaiti border, and numerous continuous violations of Security Council resolutions. The Kuwaiti Army has taken up its positions inside Kuwait and is on maximum alert. We are in constant touch with our brothers in Egypt and Syria and with our other allies in the United States and the allied forces to safeguard Kuwait's security and stability and preserve the Kuwaiti region. We hope the operations will not escalate to cover Kuwaiti territory. What happened was only a confrontation between the allied forces and Iraq under Security Council resolutions. If Iraq wants to stop these acts and avoid this confrontation, it should implement Security Council resolutions to the letter; then the Iraqi regime may come to its senses and return to its role in this region and the world.

[Abu-al-Majd] After this strike, the Iraqi regime still utters claims that Kuwait is part of Iraq, that the allies have begun a new war on it and been defeated, and other oft-heard claims that harm the Iraqi people. Do you believe these claims can persuade even the most naive Iraqis?

[Al-Sabah] I do not believe this bankrupt propaganda will convince any of the Iraqis or Arab people, because all Arab and Iraqi people know what happens in the region. This bankrupt propaganda of the Iraqi regime will not last, because nothing lasts except what is right. The threats continue and the Iraqi and some Arab countries' media campaigns on Kuwait continue, but we absorb the attacks because we know they are limited by time and that the truth will appear, God willing.

[Abu-al-Majd] Some Iraqi officials say they will retaliate for these raids at the proper time and place. Do you believe Iraq has the ability to respond?

[Al-Sabah] We have heard much of this talk, the challenges, and Iraqi stubbornness since the Kuwait-liberation war and we will continue to hear thse things after any operation by the allied forces to make Iraq accept Security Council resolutions.

By the way, the Iraqi delegate to the United Nations has submitted a memo and expressed Iraq's readiness to accept all UN conditions. This is something of a positive step but what concerns us is what will be implemented. What concern us primarily are deeds not words.

[Abu-al-Majd] What is the Kuwaiti Government's plan to protect Kuwait's security and stability?

[Al-Sabah] Cooperating and consulting with all the Arab brothers and our allies, we have taken every measure and made every plan to preserve Kuwait's security and stability and safeguard Kuwait against any threat or attack from Iraq. I would like to assure the brothers that everything is fine and under control.

[Abu-al-Majd] Many observers say that by these acts, Saddam Husayn has distracted the world's attention from the Palestinian deportees, who are now suffering from the elements in Marj al-Zuhur Camp. Do you agree with this view?

[Al-Sabah] I agree with the view that whenever domestic affairs press him, Saddam Husayn tries to (?overshadow) them with foreign issues. This might be one of the reasons but the main one is domestic affairs in Iraq. Whenever he is pressed by circumstances inside Iraq—economic or others—and loses control over Iraqi areas, he turns to such acts to vent his anger on neighboring countries, like Kuwait.

[Abu-al-Majd] What is the latest development in the issue of the Kuwaiti prisoners held by the Iraqi regime, especially as the Kuwaiti delegate to the Arab League yesterday met the Arab League chief and discussed this with him and an Arab League envoy visited Iraq and Kuwait recently?

[Al-Sabah] We follow this issue with the utmost concern because it is one of the Kuwaiti Government's and people's priorities. I regret the lack of any cooperation by Iraq on the Kuwaiti defendaNts and prisoners in Iraq.

Praises Mubarak's Reaction

NC1401221593 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2151 GMT 14 Jan 93

[Text] Cairo, 14 Jan (MENA)—Kuwaiti Information Minister Shaykh Sa'ud Nasir al-Sabah has praised President Husni Mubarak's remarks on the U.S. strike against Iraq.

In an exclusive statement to the newspaper AL-AKHBAR, to be published tomorrow, he announced that Kuwait received these remarks, the first Arab reaction, with the utmost satisfaction and appreciation because they showed a sense of pan-Arabism that places Arab interests at the top of the president's concerns.

The Kuwaiti minister added that President Mubarak's statement provided special reassurance to Kuwaiti citizens because it explained the position of the big Arab sister and recalled Egypt's and its president's stance during Operation Desert Storm and the liberation of Kuwait. He recalled how Mubarak repeatedly gave advice to Saddam and warned of the grave consequences of his intransigence and lack of response to the international community's demands.

The Kuwaiti information minister voiced the hope that this time Saddam will understand Mubarak's sincere message, accept his advice and act on it. He explained that President Mubarak's objective is to save an Arab nation from the destruction and fragmentation toward which its leader is leading it by his arrogance and defiance of international legitimacy.

He explained that the presence of the U.S. battalion that arrived in Kuwait this evening comes in implementation of the defense agreement with the United States.

UN Official Says Iraq Recovers All Nonmilitary Material

NC1501104293 Paris AFP in English 1011 GMT 15 Jan 93

[Excerpt] Kuwait City, Jan 15 (AFP)—Iraq faced a midnight (2100 GMT) deadline on Friday to dismantle six police posts on its border with Kuwait, a spokesman for the U.N. observer force between the two countries said.

'Abd-al-Latif Qabbaj, spokesman for the U.N. Iraq-Kuwait Observer Mission (UNIKOM), said any Iraqi failure to do so would be reported back to the Security Council.

He did not say if Baghdad had agreed to dismantle the border posts, which are on Kuwaiti territory under a new boundary drawn up by the United Nations following the Gulf war.

The deadline, set by the Security Council, comes against a backdrop of continuing tension after Wednesday's allied air raid on southern Iraq.

Another UNIKOM official who declined to be identified told AFP that "the Iraqis have already recovered all essential non-military material from the border area and left behind nothing of value.

"They took whatever they could and burned or destroyed the rest to prevent UNIKOM from using it," he added.

Iraqi work teams made four incursions into Kuwaiti territory this week to recover material, and took back arms including anti-ship Silkworm missiles in a first raid on Sunday.

Iraq was given U.N. permission to recover non-military equipment from the Kuwaiti side of the new border. But the incursions went ahead without the necessary prior approval of Kuwait and UNIKOM, the observer mission has said.

Baghdad denied doing anything illegal. [passage omitted]

Numbers of January Conscripts Completed

LD1301101493 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0848 GMT 13 Jan 93

[Excerpt] Kuwait, 13 Jan (KUNA)—The directorate of conscription and general mobilization has announced the completion of the required numbers of conscripts for January 1993.

The directorate invited those eligible and required for compulsory military service to contact their recruitment branches to amend their situation so that no abstention is counted against them in the future. [passage omitted]

Saudi Arabia

Papers Support Air Strike Against Iraq

LD1501042993 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0300 GMT 15 Jan 93

[Excerpts] Riyadh, 15 Jan (SPA)—[passage omitted] AL-BILAD wrote under the headline "The Price of Aggression" that despite the fact that the president of the Iraqi regime Saddam Husayn knows very well that the international community will not hesitate to stand up to his transgressions and violations of international resolutions and legitimacy, he persists in these violations, heedless of the consequences for his people and country.

The paper made clear that what happened on the night of the day before yesterday confirms beyond any doubt that the international community will not accept any trifling with or violation of what the United Nations had decided and what was accepted by Saddam Husayn, and that neither time nor changed conditions will alter this. [passage omitted] It stressed that the problem facing the Iraqi people is the result of one man's mistakes, namely, Saddam Husayn, who has become a nightmare for it and a factor for disorder in the region.

AL-JAZIRAH said "the tyrant of Iraq deserved what he had striven for, for he intentionally, madly, and incomprehensibly escalated his challenge to international legitimacy, epitomized in the resolutions passed by the UN Security Council." The paper stated that any urging of Saddam Husayn to take into consideration, even once, the interest of Iraq and the Iraqi people in security, peace, stability, development, prosperity, and the lifting of its present sufferings is meaningless and in vain, for how many times did he insolently dismiss appeals and advice from various countries, brothers and friends, and went on pursuing his aggressive plans against others?

The paper stressed that what we call on the fraternal Iraqi people to do is to rise and bring down this tyrant and liberate its national will from the hegemony of the oppressive regime, so as to return to its natural place in the ranks of its Arab and Islamic nation. On that day it will find all the brothers and friends supportive of its efforts to reconstruct and repair all that the heedless tyrant Saddam Husayn has destroyed. [passage omitted]

Algerian Defense Minister Concludes Visit

Meets Prince Sultan

LD1201150393 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 1440 GMT 12 Jan 93

[Excerpts] His Royal Highness Prince Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, second deputy prime minister, minister of defense and aviation, and inspector general, this afternoon met at his highness's office with His Excellency Major General Khaled Nezzar, member of the Higher State Council and minister of defense in the democratic and popular Republic of Algeria, along with his accompanying delegation. [passage omitted]

In the meeting, talks were exchanged about issues that concern the armed forces in the two fraternal countries and the means to consolidate them.

Visits Arms Plant

LD1301115193 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1000 GMT 13 Jan 93

[Excerpt] Riyadh, 13 Jan (SPA)— Major General Khaled Nezzar, Higher State Council member and minister of defense in the Democratic and Popular Republic of Algeria, accompanied by his delegation, today visited the public corporation for arms industries. [passage omitted] The Algerian minister concluded the visit by making an entry in the visitors book praising the tremendous progress achieved by the corporation in the arms manufacturing field, the development of the armed forces in various fields, and the corporation's high standards of production. [passage omitted]

Leaves Riyadh

LD1301161393 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 13 Jan 93

[Excerpt] His Excellency Major General Khalid Nezzar, Algerian Higher State Council member and defense minister, and his delegation left Riyadh this afternoon. [passage omitted]

British Minister of State for Defense Ends Visit

LD1201090393 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0835 GMT 12 Jan 93

[Excerpt] Riyadh, 12 Jan 93 (SPA)—His Excellency the British MP and Minister of State for Defense Affairs, Mr Jonathan Aitkin, and the accompanying delegation left

Riyadh this morning after an official visit to the Kingdom lasting a few days. [passage omitted]

Prince Sultan Interviewed on Gulf, Arab Affairs

LD1401221893 Riyadh SPA in English 1916 GMT 14 Jan 93

[Text] London, Jan 14, SPA—Second Deputy Premier, Minister of Defence and Aviation and Inspector General Prince Sultan Bin- 'Abd-al-'Aziz has confirmed that the custodian of the two holy mosques King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, with his wisdom and far-sightedness, has ended the recent dispute with the sisterly state of Qatar, which completed the aspects of success for the recent Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) summit in Abu Dhabi.

In an interview with the Middle East Broadcasting Center (MBC) television station, Prince Sultan said the custodian of the two holy mosques had taken the first steps to establish cordiality and a clear atmosphere with Qatari brothers.

He added that: The problem was the delayed arrival of a state that is dear to everyone to the summit - and with the arrival of Qatar, all aspects of success were complete for the summit, after what was issued and signed in Madina.

He pointed out that the attendance of Qatar and the success of the summit foiled the hopes of malicious and envious parties and confirmed that every GCC summit represents more positive steps for the council.

He also described the GCC as one of the most successful groupings on the Arab, Islamic and international levels, due to the good intentions of its members and the existence of aspects of cooperation and harmony among them.

Prince Sultan stressed that the GCC objective is to be a positive power in the service of the causes of the Arab nation.

Prince Sultan expressed relief for the existing military cooperation among Gulf Cooperation Council members, and for the good steps taken in that direction.

"Military cooperation among the council members has taken some good steps and is proceeding very well," said the second deputy premier, minister of defence and aviation and inspector general.

He applauded the success of the experience of "Jazirah Shield" and pointed to the decision by the GCC defence ministers and chiefs of staffs meeting in Kuwait to resume support for the Jazirah Shield forces, after the success of their experience in Kuwait.

"The Jazirah Shield forces have proved that they are up to the responsibility, when a sisterly state faced aggression, despite their small number, which is by itself a good result that encourages us to develop and support these forces," he said.

He expressed belief that the aggression was not directed at Kuwait along, but at the Gulf area as a whole, and expressed regret that such an aggression was launched by a country whose stability was supported the most by GCC states.

However, he confirmed that the Iraqi aggression, despite its tragic nature, had enhanced relations among GCC members. He said the return to the Arab League Charter, which stems from the UN Charter, is the only way to get out of the dark tunnel through which the Arab nation was dragged by the catastrophe of the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait.

He added that this catastrophe should be a motive for the establishment of a true Arab cooperation away from farces and clinging to wrongdoings.

Turning to camps set up by the kingdom to receive Iraqi citizens who suffered from the oppression and persecution of the defeated Iraqi regime, Prince Sultan said: We do not call them refugees, we call them the brothers residing in their second homeland until they return to their original homeland.

"We only did for them what is dictated to us by our religion and Arab disposition," he said adding that the kingdom has provided them with board, lodging, clothes, medicine, education until the university level and allowances for families.

He confirmed that no refugee center anywhere in the world provides such comprehensive services.

He said the Saudi efforts to boost military forces are not based on offensive ambitions, but are necessary choices to defend sacred places and the people.

"The Saudi armed forces are proceeding with the directives of the custodian of the two holy mosques, the supreme commander of the armed forces, and the support and help of the crown prince, with calculated steps that are not hasty but do not accept delay either," he said.

Prince Sultan said the Yamama project with Britain is proceeding well and never stumbled. He described it as a large project including fighter jets, training and support aircraft, radars and training all proceeding according to the correct methods.

He said Saudi-American military cooperation is also continuous and pointed to the Saudi purchase of tanks and F-15 jets.

Turning to the Shura Council, he said the Shura (Consultation) has been followed in the kingdom since it was established by the late King 'Abd-al-'Aziz and confirmed that Allah never ordained separation, he ordered grouping under the umbrella of Islamic Sharia, which gives every individual his rights.

He said the provinces system has introduced a new method, namely the selection of some residents in every

province to work with the governor and representatives of state authorities to pinpoint problems and the requirements of every site and area.

He stressed that the doors of the custodian of the two holy mosques and the crown prince are always open for all people and all issues.

"Our people are generous and respectable by nature and we respect them and open our hearts to them more than our doors," he said.

United Arab Emirates

Council of Ministers Approves 1993 Draft Budget

JN1201113093 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1000 11 Jan 93

[Excerpt] Abu Dhabi, 11 Jan (WAKH)—The Council of Ministers in the United Arab Emirates [UAE] today approved the general draft budget for 1993. Budget outlays were estimated at 17.6309 billion dirhams, while the budget's general revenues were estimated at 15.9111 billion dirhams.

The UAE news agency reported that the budget deficit amounted to 1.7198 billion dirhams. [passage omitted]

Yemen

Statement Issued on Border Talks With Saudi Arabia

JN1401204593 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 14 Jan 93

[Text] The Yemeni side to the joint Yemeni-Saudi border committee of experts under Ja'far Sa'id Ba-Salih, deputy director of the Presidential Council office and member of the Council of Representatives, returned to Sanaa this evening after participating in the fourth round of talks held in Riyadh 11-14 January. The experts committee has issued the following joint press statement:

The joint Yemeni-Saudi border committee of experts held its fourth round of meetings in Riyadh 11-14 January 1993. The committee resumed its deliberations on its tasks concerning the border between the two countries. The meetings took place in a fraternal and cordial atmosphere. The two sides agreed to continue talks and discussions in a future meeting to be held in Sanaa on a date to be fixed later through diplomatic channels.

The Yemeni side to the joint border committee left Riyadh for Sanaa. It was seen off by the chairman and members of the Saudi delegation.

The Yemeni side thanked the head and members of the Saudi side for the reception and hospitality accorded to them.

Ground Defenses 'Confront' Air Target 15 Jan

JN1501172093 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1707 GMT 15 Jan 93

[Text] A military spokesman has stated the following:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. So that the enemies will leave our homeland, so that our martyr's chaste blood may not have been spilled in vain, and so that the voice of the truth will remain high in facing the tyrants, our ancient people who are known for their struggle against all forms of colonialism, are continuing their heroic struggle and steadfastness which astonished the enemies and destroyed their arrogance. God willing, victory will be the inevitable result of this glorious steadfastness and this struggle against the forces of injustice and the unjust. And soon will the unjust assailants know what vicissitude their affairs will take. [Koranic verse]

At 1630 today, 15 January 1993, our ground defenses continued their heroic confrontation of the enemy planes. They confronted a hostile air target in the al-Dayr area in steadfast al-Basrah and forced it to flee.

God bless the ground resistance men in the heroic al-Qadisiyah forces. May God honor them with victory.

[Dated] 15 January 1993.

Further Reportage on Reaction to 13 Jan Air Raid

UN Envoy Meets Ambassadors

JN1401232393 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 2300 GMT 14 Jan 93

[Text] Ambassador Nizar Hamdun met yesterday afternoon with the U.S., British, French, and Russian ambassadors.

The INA correspondent in New York reported that Ambassador Hamdun told reporters following the meeting that the four ambassadors raised the issue of the safety of the Special Commission's aircraft.

Ambassador Hamdun said that Iraq was ready to guarantee the safety of these flights, except when hostile military operations were being carried out against Iraq.

He added that the three states that launched the aggression against Iraq the day before yesterday should reconsider their stance and have recourse to dialogue to solve all problems. He asserted that Iraq does not recognize the no-fly zone, adding that Iraq will continue to do what it deems necessary to defend its sovereignty and rights.

U.S. Said Satisfied

JN1501101793 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0935 GMT 15 Jan 93

[Excerpts] New York, 15 Jan (INA)—Ambassador to the United Nations Nizar Hamdun met with the U.S., French, British, and Russian ambassadors in New York last night. [passage omitted]

It is worth noting that late yesterday afternoon, Thursday, the Security Council members held unofficial consultations and discussed several topics, some of which dealt with Iraq. The INA correspondent in New York reported from United Nations Headquarters that those consultations lasted about one hour, but no statement was released. However, a number of the Security Council member states' ambassadors spoke to reporters following the consultations.

The ambassadors of the United States, France, and Japan expressed their satisfaction with the contents of the message Iraqi Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf sent to Yoshio Hatano, the current president of the Security Council.

Defenses 'Ready' for Aggression

JN1401171493 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1652 GMT 14 Jan 93

[Text] Baghdad, 14 Jan (INA)—A military source told INA today that, before the recent aggression, our anti-aircraft missile crews in the southern part of the country were instructed not to turn on their radar and other equipment for monitoring aerial targets and their beams until ordered to do so in order not to give a pretext for any aggression. This is why the enemy planes, which carried out the aggression yesterday, escaped the effects of our missile defenses. Now, all kinds of air defenses are ready to confront any aggressive activity.

Planes 'Confronted' Over Ninawa

JN1401195293 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1915 GMT 14 Jan 93

[Text] A military spokesman has stated the following: In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. The world these days is witnessing a unique example which will continue to be followed by the world's peoples in their confrontation with colonialism and aggression, after it has destroyed its political, economic, and social pillars. Such great defiance of colonialism and its allies would not have taken place without what the lofty Iraqis have built through their jihad, efforts, and the wisdom of their leader throughout the blessed years of the revolution, in terms of the requirements of struggle. The lofty Iraqis and their Armed Forces, under the banner of God is great, are determined to and are marching ahead to wrest victory in this honorable confrontation. In light of the struggle, whose torch was lit by the great people of Iraq, the enemies have no choice but to leave our land and stop their criminal policy.

In light of this situation, the barbaric force, which is represented by the Zionist Americans, found nothing to do other than carry out cowardly operations, which they imagined would be able to twist the will of right and the determination of the believers. However, they also failed in this and were disappointed.

At 1230 [0930 GMT] on 14 January 1993, two enemy planes flew at a low altitude over the al-Khazir area in the Ninawa Governorate. Our antiaircraft defenses confronted them and forced them to flee. May God bless our heroic men of the 'Ammuriyah Forces—the commanders, officers, and other ranks. Praise be to God for His righteous victory.

[Dated] 21 Rajab 1413 Hegira, corresponding to 14 January 1993

Civilian Area Hit

JN1401153393 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1226 GMT 14 Jan 93

[Excerpt] Al-Basrah, 14 Jan (INA)—The residential quarter of the petrochemical compound in al-Basrah Governorate was one of the targets of the evildoers in their new treacherous aggression against the Iraq of glory and faith on the night of 13 January 1993. God's will disgraced them once again and exposed the evil and evildoers who came with vindictive hearts and evil machinations. Thus, God has disgraced them with their cowardly act when their raids targeted civilian residential areas in the al-Basrah petrochemical compound.

The aggressive tyrants achieved only a minor part of their sick dreams, as willed by God Almighty, which is less than what the faithful had expected. The faithful Iraqis, the men of al-Qadisiyah and the immortal Mother of Battles and the people of sacrifice and pride, faced them valiantly and with resolve.

Our sacrifices as a result of the failed U.S. aggression against civilian residential areas in the suburbs of al-Basrah, al-Najaf, al-Muthanna, Dhi Qar, and Maysan, were 17 martyrs and eight wounded from our Armed Forces and two civilian martyrs and seven wounded.

The wounded citizens who reside in the petrochemical compound residential quarter in al-Basrah Governorate denounced the new U.S. aggression, saying it embodies the vindictiveness of the forces of evil and deception, led by the United States, against the patient, struggling people of Iraq. [passage omitted]

National Assembly Appeal

JN1401180893 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1718 GMT 14 Jan 93

[Text] Baghdad, 14 Jan (INA)—The National Assembly has appealed to Arab and foreign parliaments and to the international community—individuals and organizations—to loudly denounce and condemn the fresh U.S. aggression committed by war criminal Bush and his renegade allies last night against Iraq.

In a statement issued today, the National Assembly said that the blatant U.S. aggression does not have any legitimate or legal grounds, disregards all human values and considerations, and is far removed from international charters, human rights, and the UN Charter.

The National Assembly affirmed that the ban on flights south of the 32d parallel and north of the 36th parallel, imposed by the United States and its allies, is not based on any UN resolution and has nothing to do with the Gulf war and crisis. The ban also lacks international, legal, and moral legitimacy and is an interference in Iraq's domestic affairs, notwithstanding the fact that Iraq is a UN member.

The statement emphasized that in accordance with the principle of sovereignty, Iraq has the right to move all its military equipment on its soil, whether in the south or in the north, because this is an act of sovereignty, noting that the United States claims to have respect for and to protect the sovereignty and independence of nations. When Iraq does anything on its soil, waters, or skies, it does not harm the interests of any other nation, does not threaten the Gulf cease-fire resolution, and does not encroach on any other state.

The statement explained that since the halt of military operations in February 1991, Iraq has been cooperating with the United Nations to implement all Security Council resolutions issued between 12 August 1990 and March 1991. The Government of the Republic of Iraq has met all its commitments toward the United Nations concerning all issues related to the crisis. What happened is that the international coalition, led by the United States, has violated Security Council resolutions.

Rallies Support Saddam

JN1401172193 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 14 Jan 93

[Text] Shouts of anger and condemnations of the crime which was perpetrated by criminal Bush and his evil allies through their flagrant aggression against Iraq's people and sovereignty yesterday were raised in lofty Iraq's governorates today.

Masses in the Diyala Governorate expressed their full rallying around leader President Saddam Husayn's leadership and their readiness to make sacrifices in defense of great Iraq. During a demonstration in front of the Diyala branch of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, the masses denounced the spiteful imperialist aggression that the aircraft of criminal Bush and his Atlantic allies carried out against Iraq's sacred territory. In their shouts, the masses renewed allegiance to leader President Saddam Husayn and their constant readiness to volunteer to take up arms in defense of every single pure iota of the dear homeland's soil.

In al-Qadisiyah, an indignant popular demonstration roamed the streets of the city of al-Diwaniyah in condemnation of the new aggression carried against Iraq out by America and its allies. During their demonstration, the sons of the governorate held up leader President Saddam Husayn's pictures, and placards carrying denunciations of the Bush administration's hideous crime against the Iraqi people. The masses renewed their constant readiness to defend the dear homeland.

Mammoth popular demonstrations roamed the streets of al-'Amarah today. Chieftains, dignitaries, trade unions, and popular organizations participated in the demonstrations. The demonstrators denounced the criminal and immoral acts perpetrated by the states of the aggression led by America, the enemy of peoples. The masses stressed that they will stand as one cohesive rank against the 30- state aggression which is targeting the free, independent will of Iraq and its lofty people.

The masses in Wasit Governorate today denounced the spiteful aerial aggression carried out by America and its allies against Iraq's sacred territory. During a gathering held in the celebration square in the city of al-Kut, the masses expressed their great love for and loyalty to leader President Saddam Husayn, and their constant readiness to defend great Iraq and protect its borders from all external aggression. The angry masses renewed the pledge to President Saddam Husayn to remain faithful soldiers to defend the dear homeland.

Women in Karbala' denounced the aggression which was carried out by America and its allies against great Iraq. During a gathering in the city of Karbala' today, attended by Karbala' Governor 'Abd-al- Khaliq 'Abd-al-'Aziz and the secretary and members of the Karbala' branch of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, the women renewed allegiance to President Saddam Husayn, to be at his beck and call to build, reconstruct, and defend great Iraq.

Ramadan on 'Aggression'

JN1401180093 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1507 GMT 14 Jan 93

[Text] Baghdad, 14 Jan (INA)—Taha Yasin Ramadan, Revolution Command Council member and vice president, has stressed that man's freedom, sovereignty, and independence are above everything, and that defending them, regardless of the sacrifices, is an honor and a glory.

During a meeting with a delegation from the General Union of Sudanese Students led by Muhammad Ahmad, Taha Yasin Ramadan said that the Iraqis, under the leadership of President Saddam Husayn, are more determined to adhere to their principles, values, and morals each time plotting against them is escalated by the allies of Satan, the enemies of Iraq and mankind, the Americans, Zionists, and the Atlantic states.

The vice president added: The new U.S. aggression against Iraq has exposed a premeditated aggressive policy against Iraq and false claims of international legitimacy and human rights. He stressed that international legitimacy favors peoples' national sovereignty, not violating it.

He noted that the UN Security Council is just watching the U.S. aggression. The attack on Iraqi installations and the violation of Iraq's airspace constitute a defiance of international legitimacy and the international community.

Taha Yasin Ramadan stressed that the Iraqis' awareness of this plotting and aggression will defeat the aggressors and foil and expose their conspiracies. He said that Iraq will remain free and independent, and will exercise its sovereignty over its resources and progressive march.

The General Union of Sudanese Students delegation conveyed the greetings of the Sudanese students and people to President Saddam Husayn and their pride in his courageous pan-Arab stands, which have become the subject of pride for every zealous Arab who is concerned about his nation's existence and future.

Hasan al-Jasim, acting president of the National Union of Iraqi Students, attended the meeting.

Ibrahim Sees U.S. 'Arrogance'

JN1401212793 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 14 Jan 93

[Text] 'Izzat Ibrahim, vice chairman of the Revolution Command Council, has affirmed that Arab women have always played a significant role in aiding the jihad march since our forefathers started the effort of communicating the divine message to all mankind. He noted that they were in charge of providing combatants with drinking water and of nursing wounds on the battlefield [words indistinct] intelligent and courageous sons, who safeguarded the honor of mothers and sisters and upheld principles.

During a meeting with members of the Executive Bureau of the General Union of Iraqi Women, 'Izzat Ibrahim added that [words indistinct] in Iraq are the most capable of effecting a living interaction with [words indistinct] which experienced the birth of its light and reaped good fruits from the 17-30 July 1968 revolution. Hence, I urge women to be mothers of good citizens, faithful and courageous men who uphold principles.

'Izzat Ibrahim went on to say: The 30-state aggression to which our proud Iraq was exposed was prompted by the historical hatred harbored by Zionists and Western imperialism. Western imperialism deems it impermissible for the Arabs to go beyond the red lines set up for them. However, this is impossible. This is because Iraqis, under mujahid leader Saddam Husayn, believe in their principles. And it is impossible for aggressive practices to make them budge a hairbreadth from these principles.

The RCC vice chairman said: The U.S. enemy and its allies have made a habit of blackmailing the Iraqis on a daily basis under the guise of implementing UN resolutions [word indistinct], which are purely U.S. resolutions that have nothing to do with the United Nations. He asserted that the United States and its allies will fail to achieve their purposes. They, he noted, will have the bitter taste of humiliation. He added that the latest U.S. aggression does not have any legal grounds or reasons. It was prompted by U.S. arrogance and machinations against this nation. It is deemed a serious precedent and a stick brandished in the face of all peoples of the globe.

who cherish peace, freedom, and unity, he noted. As for Iraqi mujahidin nowadays, they are the roaring voice of right, invoking international conscience and protesting the acts of the archsatan, who is flouting all heavenly and earthly values. He affirmed that the enemies will, God willing, see from us a heroic fighting and generous sacrifices in defense of our sovereignty, our people's rights, and the future of our nation.

Former Premier Denounces 'Spite'

NC1501105693 Paris AFP in English 1019 GMT 15 Jan 93

[Excerpts] Manama, Jan 15 (AFP)—U.N. chemical experts were still stuck in Bahrain on Friday waiting on permission to fly to Iraq despite Baghdad's assurances that a flight ban had been lifted.

U.N. field coordinator Douglas Englund said "we, in New York or Bahrain, haven't got any clearance yet from Iraq" but hoped it could come through on Friday. [passage omitted]

Some 70 U.N. personnel, including chemical weapons experts, plane and helicopter crews and technicians have been waiting here for almost two weeks because of the Iraqi ban.

Bahrain is the regional base for U.N. missions into Iraq under Gulf war ceasefire terms ordering the destruction of its weapons of mass destruction. Inspectors fly into Iraq in their own aircraft and then travel around the country on U.N. helicopters.

Englund has said that the experts will not leave "unless we are sure the flight will be safe." [passage omitted]

Iraq's former prime minister, Sa'adun Hammadi, meanwhile denounced the "spiteful spirit" of U.S., British and French officials, who he said pursue aggressive aims against his country by exploiting their strong position at the United Nations.

He said in an article published Friday in the ruling Ba'th party daily AL-THAWRAH that "the spirit of the leaders of the United States, Britain and France, particularly in Washington, is dominated by spite and evil intentions which drive them to seek any excuse to repeat their aggression against Iraq."

Hammadi said that "three colonial powers, spearheads of the aggression, will stoop to any level to achieve their aims," adding that they capitalized on their standing at the United Nations, their international relations and their military might to attack Iraq.

He particularly singled out the administration of outgoing U.S. President George Bush which he accused of implementing an arrogant and immoral policy worldwide.

AL-'IRAQ Comment

JN1501110393 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0737 GMT 15 Jan 93

[Text] Baghdad, 15 Jan (INA)—The newspaper AL-'IRAQ has said that within a few days, George Bush will pack up and leave the White House for good to take his place in the dustbin of history, as a criminal of war and aggression, a maniac obsessed with committing crimes and spreading havoc and murder, and a reckless tyrant who brought harm to the Third World and to all people aspiring for freedom and dignity.

In an article today, the paper says: Evil rulers like Bush must say good-bye to their final days in power by shedding blood and threatening peace and security in various parts of the world, and jeopardizing countries that believe in their national choices and reject all forms of hegemony and colonialism.

The paper adds: The defeated U.S. President, who is now an outcast even among his own people, has launched a new aggression against Iraq in a final expression of his bitterness and disappointment as he finds himself out of the limelight and evicted from the White House.

The paper explains that the Bush administration has employed the UN Security Council as a tool to cover its hostile schemes and premeditated evil intentions against Iraq. World public opinion is now aware of this fact, which has become so clear and exposed even inside the United Nations since August 1990.

The paper asserts that Bush, who has gone too far in his hatred of Iraq, has, through his representative on the UN Security Council, used our request that the United Nations stop chartering flights for its missions in Iraq, even for a short period of time, out of fear of possible aggression, as well as the retrieval of our property in Umm Qasr and the demilitarized zone, to launch a campaign of disinformation about his position in preparation for the new aggression which came on Wednesday evening.

AL-QADISHIYAH Editorial

JN1501102893 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0920 GMT 15 Jan 93

[Text] Baghdad, 15 Jan (INA)—AL-QADISIYAH says that lofty Iraq will continue to adhere to its firm stand rejecting and resisting the illegitimate ban on Iraqi flights. AL-QADISIYAH, the organ of the Defense Ministry, says in its editorial today that the aggression against Iraq will only increase our firmness and determination to safeguard Iraq's sovereignty, unity, and independence.

The paper recalls what President Saddam Husayn said in his historic speech immediately after the aggression. He said: Another battle of jihad has started and God wants it to be a splendid victory.

AL-QADISIYAH says: Therefore, our new chapter of jihad will be full of heroic and militant acts because it began when the enemy disclosed its wicked intentions and insistence on humiliating Iraq, and imposing evil and tyranny over the entire world. However, the enemy will be accursed and in our decisive confrontation with the enemy we will achieve a splendid victory and walk firmly toward a new Arab awakening.

AL-QADISIYAH adds: The Iraqis embarked on construction and reconstruction with a high level of efficiency and splendid creativity. For all this, they will triumph and continue to carry the message. The paper stresses that heroism is only demonstrated by heroes and that the land of civilizations, the homeland of glorious defense and creativity, can continue its epic-like acts of jihad and construction. The aggressors will only end up in their dark caves in the dark ages.

Concluding, AL-QADISIYAH says: Iraq will remain a minaret for jihad, lighting the road for all Arabs, Muslims, mujahidin, and free men of the world.

Kurdish Radio Commentary

NC1401183593 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1637 GMT 14 Jan 93

[Unattributed political commentary]

[Text] Last night's air strike by the coalition states against the Iraqi regime was tantamount to an international message to the Iraqi people to mobilize themselves and unite their ranks to begin the battle to get rid of the ruling dictatorship, which has persisted in involving the Iraqi people in its foolish wars. The nonsensical actions of this clique against neighboring states and the international community, and its continued violations of human rights in Iraq, prove that it has lost its suitability to remain in power. In fact, it all proves that its continuation in power has become impossible.

This is why the international community has unanimously supported the Iraqi people in its efforts to get rid of the regime. Regional states friendly to the Iraqi people and the coalition states have begun diplomatic and political moves to support the Iraqi opposition and the Iraqi Army in taking the initiative to save the people from the band of criminals in power in Baghdad. The BBC yesterday cited a report submitted to the White House on the eve of U.S. President George Bush's decision to retaliate against Iraq as saying that the United States hopes that the military echelon in Iraq will question Saddam's suitability to remain in power following the raid. The radio added that U.S. correspondents regard the air raid on southern Iraq as a message with political implications, indicating Western support for the Iraqi Army to topple the Baghdad regime.

Concurrent with these events, Egyptian President Husni Mubarak met with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad in Damascus to discuss the situation in Iraq. Nothing has yet been revealed about the contents of the Egyptian-Syrian talks, but previous positions of the two states indicate that they are determined to continue supporting Iraqi efforts to remove the Baghdad dictator. Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' also held contacts with Iran, Egypt, and the United Arab Emirates to discuss a settlement in the region on the basis of the establishment of peace and noninterference in the internal affairs of others, a settlement that takes into consideration Iraq's situation after Saddam is toppled.

These moves confirm that the countries in the region and the world have become fully convinced of the need to change the political regime in Iraq to make it possible to establish peace in the Middle East. Therefore, the recent air strike against the Iraqi regime was part of a series of political and military measures that could prepare the way for the Iraqi people and Army to overthrow the pillars of the dilapidated authority in Baghdad. Despite its positive military results, the air strike was designed to produce political results of extreme seriousness to the Iraqi regime. The disintegration and decay have begun tearing up the body of the Iraqi regime. The dictatorship has lost its wager with the world, and the fig leaf has dropped. It is gripped by a state of confusion and anarchy, and confidence has been shaken in the prospects of the dictatorship staying in power.

The countdown has begun for the end of the hated dictatorship rule and for the hour of final salvation from this criminal and oppressive clique. The Iraqi Army is today, more than ever before, responsible before the people, the country, and history to end the plight of our people in Iraq and join the national and international will to save this people from the oppression of the evil dictatorship.

Shiite Radio 'Political Talk'

NC1401165693 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Islamic Revolution in Arabic 1453 GMT 14 Jan 93

["Political talk"]

[Text] Once again our Iraqi people are being subjected to military operations by the West. Once again the plight of our kin is heightening as a result of the regime's clownish and showy policies. Iraq has been the scene of allied military operations that have left a number of people dead and wounded. The operations also caused further destruction to the Iraqi war machine and the popular installations and institutions. The result is more destruction, suffering, and taxes paid by our oppressed Iraqi people.

Responsibility for this limited air strike lies with the ruling Saddamite regime, which flexed its muscles, demanded the restoration of Kuwait, advanced into the border zone, and deployed its missiles north and south of the 32d and 36th parallels. Despite all the allied warnings and military preparations, the defeated regime put on an air of strength and empty arrogance, as usual. However, when the military strike on our people and our

national resources was dealt, the regime decided to bow once again to the UN resolutions, declaring its false repentance, retracting its allegations about the liberation of Kuwait, and claiming that 'Abd-al-Jabbar Muhsin's article was merely an expression of his personal views and was not written in his capacity as press adviser to tyrant Saddam. Nizar Hamdun, the regime's UN representative, has announced that his regime is committed to all UN resolutions, fully submits to the will of the Western powers, and agrees not to intervene in the affairs of the international observers inside the areas where flights by the regime's military aircraft are prohibited.

The regime, once again, has shown that it poses a clear danger to our Iraqi people. The presence of this regime is the cause of all evils sustained by our people and kin in Iraq. Its reckless and suspicious policies have given the West adequate justification to deal military strikes, destroy our country, and threaten our people, who have so far tolerated all this. Thus, the real criminal is the tyrant Saddam. Our people will never forgive him for these crimes and practices. The day will come when they will avenge themselves and fight back for their dignity.

Media Report on Saddam Husayn's Activities

Chairs Air Force Meeting

NC1401200593 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1942 GMT 14 Jan 92

[Text] Baghdad, 14 Jan (INA)—Staff Field Marshal Saddam Husayn, Armed Forces commander in chief, chaired a meeting of fighters Staff Lieutenant General pilot Muzhim Sa'b, the Air Force and Air Defense commander, and a number of senior command officers. Staff Lieutenant General 'Ala' Kazim al-Janabi, secretary of the General Comamnd of the Armed Forces, also attended the meeting.

Meets Industrial, Oil Officials

JN1401213193 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 2100 GMT 14 Jan 93

[Text] Leader President Saddam Husayn, may God protect him, chaired a meeting attended by Lieutenant General Husayn Kamil Hasan, the president's adviser and the man in charge of the industry and oil sectors; Lieutenant General 'Amir Hammudi al-Sa'di, minister of industry and minerals; Usamah 'Abd-al-Razzaq al-Hiti, the oil minister; and Lieutenant General 'Amir Muhammad Rashid, director of the Military Industrialization Organization.

Meets Baghdad Mayor

JN1301074293 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 0400 GMT 13 Jan 93

[Text] Leader President Saddam Husayn, may God watch over him, yesterday visited the Baghdad Municipality, where he met with engineer and Major General Nizar Jum'ah 'Ali al-Qasir, the Baghdad mayor.

The leader president was acquainted with the activities and plans of the Baghdad Municipality and its departments. His excellency gave directions to upgrade services rendered to citizens in the beloved capital, Baghdad.

Congratulates King Husayn

JN1101121993 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1127 GMT 11 Jan 93

[Text] Baghdad, 11 Jan (INA)—President Saddam Husayn has sent a cable of congratulations to his brother King Husayn Bin-Talal of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, on his return to his country after having undergone medical checkups.

The cable says: I have received with great satisfaction the news of your return to your brotherly country, Jordan, after having undergone medical checkups. I extend to Your Majesty, in the name of the people of Iraq and on my personal behalf, my best congratulations for your safety. I beseech God Almighty to grant you continued good health and happiness.

I wish the fraternal Jordanian people continued progress and prosperity. Please accept my best brotherly regards.

Clandestine Views Antiregime Operation in Marshlands

JN1201164093 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 1330 GMT 11 Jan 93

[Text] In retaliation for the 'Aflaqites' irresponsible actions and their efforts to erect dams to prevent river water from reaching the marshlands in the southern part of the country, our heroic revolutionary forces launched a surprise attack last week against the destructive engineering works of the despotic regime, the enemy of the people, in the western part of al-'Adl subdistrict in al-Majarr al-Kabir district.

A statement by our zealous fighters reports that in their attack our heroes completely destroyed three shovels [preceding word in English] and most of the mercenaries from the engineering works were either killed or wounded.

The statement adds that the enemy continues its aggression against the marshland inhabitants and its attempts to destroy everything that lives there. The rash tyrant continues to issue orders to his mercenaries to continue building sand dams and prevent the waters from reaching the marshlands.

Government Shelling of Marshland

NC1301184193 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Islamic Revolution in Arabic 1430 GMT 13 Jan 3

[Text] Our sources have reported that in an attempt to strike at the escalating resistance in south Iraq, the regime's artillery resumed its intensive bombardment of the marshlands areas in al- Basrah, al-'Imarah [Maysan], and al-Nasiriyah [Dhi Qar] Governorates at the end of

last week. The sources said that Jazirat Umm al-Tuwaylah and (Nahr Salih) in al-Basrah Governorate and Abu Saddah and (Muray'an) in al-Nasiriyah Governorate, and (al-'Idhari), (al-Jazri), (al-Jadi), and (al-Saydal) in al-'Imarah Governorate came under brutal shelling several days ago.

The cowardly shelling caused numerous casualties among the citizens and severe damage to their homes and livelihood.

Rebel Radio Reports Antiregime Operations, Deaths

NC1301193993 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Islamic Revolution in Arabic 1430 GMT 13 Jan 93

[Text] Jihad punishment operations continue against the elements of terrorism and criminality serving the tyrant Saddam's regime. Our sources have reported that the criminal Basil Bahjat Naji, a senior officer of the special security apparatus that is run by Qusayy, Saddam's younger son, was killed during an attack by a popular forces group in Baghdad in late December.

Our sources added that the criminal was one of the pillars of this special terrorist security apparatus and one of the prominent officials in charge of planning repressive acts against the Iraqi people.

A group of the Islamic resistance ambushed an armored vehicle belonging to Saddam's Ba'thist regime in al-Nasr area of the al-Dayr subdistrict in al-Basrah Governorate in the south last week, destroying it and killing its five occupants, including a first lieutenant. Our sources said that regime personnel manning a checkpoint in al-Nasr area close to the site of the attack fled, leaving behind them large quantities of military hardware.

Regime Suffers 'Over 400' Casualties in December

NC1401171693 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Islamic Revolution in Arabic 1445 GMT 14 Jan 93

[Text] The operations of jihad and resistance are continuing inside Iraq. Near the end of last month, grinding battles took place in (al-Bayb) area near (al-Jurnah) province of al-Basrah Governorate between the Islamic resistance forces and the forces of tyrant Saddam. Our sources in the south say that Saddam's forces suffered hundreds of casualties, killed and wounded, including a brigade commander with the rank of staff colonel.

The same sources said that the 1st and 3d Regiments of the 23th Brigade, supported by the regime's artillery, attacked (al-Bayb) area west of the area in which the 11th Battalion is stationed in (al-Jurnah). The Islamic resistance forces confronted this attack through scores of ambushes on the routes taken by the regime's forces. The resistance forces clashed with the regime's forces in grinding battles that led to the destruction of 80 percent of the 1st Regiment and 50 percent of the 3d Regiment. According to our sources, the regime's forces sustained the following losses:

1. Over 400 of the regime's servicemen were killed or wounded, including the commander of the 23d Brigade, a staff colonel by the name of 'Abdallah; the commander of the 1st regiment, a staff major by the name of Safa'; the brigade's intelligence officer; three captains; four first lieutenants; and three second lieutenants.

2. More than six jeep-like vehicles were destroyed.

3. A number of two-way radios, machine guns, Kalashnikov rifles, RPG-7 launchers, and other military hardware was seized.

The sources added that after the defeat of its forces, the regime massed the forces again, reinforcing them with additional troops, and attacked the same area. The forces of our valiant fighters confronted the assault and inflicted heavy losses on the attackers.

The regime, to avenge its losses in the battle field, shelled (al-Bayb) and nearby areas with long-range artillery. The fierce shelling led to grave losses in terms of civilian life and property. Sources say that the brutal shelling led to the burning of (al-Bayb) area and the destruction of a large number of the nearby houses in (al-Khuyut), (al-Shitawtar), and (al-Quwaylah). Initial reports say that 10 civilians, including three children, were killed in the shelling.

U.S. 'Procrastination' Delays Missile Test

TA1401162493 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 14 Jan 93 p A8

[Report by defense affairs correspondent Aluf Ben]

[Text] The fifth test launch of the Arrow antimissile missile, which was scheduled to take place soon, has been delayed as a result of the U.S. Administration's procrastination in approving the delivery of a component to Israel that is indispensable for the missile's development. The delivery of the component to Israel was made possible only through the intervention of senior sources in the defense establishment.

The Israel Aircraft Industries [IAI], which is responsible for developing the Arrow, sought to purchase the essential component from a U.S. company in June 1992 and a request for an export license was submitted to the State Department, which is the administrative body in charge of supervising arms sales.

The State Department was in no hurry to approve the component's export to Israel, and development of the missile was held up.

IAI officials appealed to the administration and explained that the Arrow was being developed for the Pentagon as part of the U.S. Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI). The State Department, however, did not accede to the requests, even after the intervention of U.S. defense establishment representatives and David 'Ivri, director general of the Defense Ministry.

Only in November, at the biannual strategic talks between Israel and the United States, did the State Department representatives announce that an export permit had been issued for the essential component.

The delay in exporting the component aroused fears in Israel that the Americans were deliberately stalling because of their suspicion that Israel had illegally exported U.S. military technology. Israeli sources, however, asserted that the delay may be just the innocent result of bureaucratic red tape in Washington.

The sources estimated that the Arrow's test launch, which was supposed to examine the missile's interception capabilities, has been put off by at least two months due to the difficulties in obtaining the component.

Commentator Reviews 'Lessons' of Gulf War

TA1501115393 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 15 Jan 93 p B1

[Commentary by Ze'ev Schiff: "New Mutual Deterrence"]

[Text] Two years after the Gulf war and against the background of this week's air attack on targets in southern Iraq, it is possible to reconsider several lessons learned from the war, with an eye to the future. In the United States, for instance, the intelligence community is occupied with the question: In dealing with the Iranian arms buildup, are the United States and the international community repeating the same mistakes they made with Iraq? What they forget to ask, for some reason, is: What has Iran learned from Saddam Husayn's mistakes that will enable it to develop nonconventional military power without getting embroiled in a situation similar to that of Iraq? Two years after the war, it is already clear that, despite various judicious moves, some industrialized countries, especially in the West, are once again making mistakes and permitting their companies to sell equipment and weapons to Iran, which will double its military might.

Israel continues to be concerned about whether its deterrent capability was hurt by its failure to react to the Iraqi missile attacks on its towns. The answer to that must come from the Arabs, and what counts is not the concern many Israelis have but the two lessons the Arabs have learned.

The first is that Israel currently does not have a satisfactory answer to the surface-to-surface missile threat. They have definitely drawn the conclusion that such missiles can paralyze entire civilian operations and undermine public morale. Their conclusion is—and there are signs of this in the field—that they should continue to procure surface-to-surface missiles and even to manufacture them on their soil, as well as to upgrade their range of missiles, their accuracy, and their payload capability. The missiles are also the Arabs' indirect answer to the might of Israel's Air Force.

The second thing the Arabs observed during the war was that the moment the Iraqi missile attack began, the United States came to Israel's aid. It put at Israel's disposal satellite services to provide early warning and sent Israel Patriot missiles and teams to operate them. Other countries, such as the Netherlands and Germany, joined the United States. That assistance is part of Israel's deterrent formula.

Under no circumstances should we accept the claim that the Arabs believe that the Iraqi missile attack set a precedent which will be repeated in the future and that we will exercise restraint if there are future attacks on our population centers. I became even more convinced of this after talks with Syrians and other Arabs. The Arabs understand Israel's red lines and that what took place during the Gulf war with Iraq could lead to a more drastic Israeli response in the future.

Nevertheless, in my view, a change has taken place in Israel's deterrent capability, but this does not stem from its restraint during the missile attacks. The change was gradual and is not linked to the Gulf war. A good example of this is the security relations between Israel and Syria. Although Syria has not succeeded in achieving strategic parity with Israel, it has developed the capability of hitting the Israeli home front. In other words, Syria has the ability to exact quite a heavy price for an

attack on the Syrian home front. Damascus has achieved, therefore, a deterrent capability it did not have in the past. This is not strategic parity between the sides but a new mutual deterrence. In this equation, Israel's deterrence is still greater than that of Syria, but the Syrian deterrence is strong enough for Israel to think twice before initiating a military operation deep inside Syria, as it did in early 1973, when it sent aircraft to attack various targets in Syria in reaction to border incidents.

Israel was not reasonably prepared in several fields when the war broke out. Since then, however, efforts have been made to rectify the situation. For instance, following firm denials that all the gas masks were defective, the defense establishment in fact quietly decided to accept the state comptroller's report that hundreds of thousands of masks did not provide adequate protection because they were not properly sealed. In addition, the comptroller reported that Israel repurchased old gas masks it had sold abroad because they were defective. Not too many months have passed since the denials were issued, and at this very time many gas masks held by the public are being replaced.

There has also been an improvement in the intelligence field since the war, but, in the meantime, new tasks and targets have been added. If Iran does constitute a new and clear threat, we should know more about what is happening there and what its intentions toward Israel are. That means Israeli intelligence must deal more than ever with targets beyond the confrontation states. This is harder and requires larger resources. Is the improvement that has taken place in intelligence since the war sufficient? Can we say that the chances of making big mistakes in evaluating the situation have been reduced? The answer is no. We have not reached such a situation, and it is doubtful whether we can. The problem is that in order to correct the situation, money is not enough.

Looking back, it seems that during the war it was learned that even Israel's offensive capability was deficient. Had Israel needed to respond to the missile attacks and hit remote targets, and not only missile batteries, we would have found that the range of possibilities was more limited than we thought. It is difficult to go into detail here, but the significance is that between a regular military response—dropping ordinary bombs—and the most drastic one lay very few possibilities, and not all would have been sufficiently effective. I hesitate to use the term blunder, but there was definitely negligence. Since then, efforts have been made to rectify the situation, but that requires a great deal of time and money.

ICRC Blamed for Failure of Aid to Deportees

TA1501054493 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 15 Jan 93

[Text] Israeli officials blame the Red Cross for torpedoing the talks on future assistance to the more than 400 Palestinians Israel deported to Lebanon last month. A senior government official said Israel had agreed to allow the Red Cross to take medical supplies to the deportees, but the deal fell through when the Red Cross upped its demands. This report from Dani Gur-Arye:

[Gur-Arye] The story begins last Saturday, when the two officials of the International Committee of the Red Cross [ICRC] returned from their survey of the deportee tent camp in Lebanon. The Red Cross officials, eager to follow up on their assessment of the deportees' condition, request the Israeli Government's permission to return to Lebanon with a helicopter full of supplies and with a mission: to evacuate nine more Palestinians Israel deported by mistake.

At the time, six days ago, Israel said yes on both counts: Yes, the Red Cross officials could take back mostly medical supplies; and yes, they could bring back the nine deportees in UN helicopters. Israel made public its consent to the evacuation, but only last night did a senior Israeli government official confirm Israel was willing then to allow the Red Cross to take supplies. The gesture was a departure from Israel's policy since the expulsion of insisting that Lebanon is responsible for the welfare of the deportees. Only two weeks ago, the cabinet had decided by a vote of eight to six not to allow humanitarian aid to the deportees through Israeli lines.

But when Israel agreed to the delivery of medical supplies six days ago, the senior official says, the Red Cross upped the ante. Red Cross officials asked in addition to be allowed to take out another seven sick Palestinians and deliver them to a hospital in Israel's security zone in Lebanon. The official stresses that the Red Cross' own doctors said the condition of the seven was not life-threatening. He said the Red Cross was trying to squeeze Israel—in his words—like a lemon for further concessions. When Israel turned down the request, the official said, the Red Cross refused to fly back to the tent camp with the supplies.

That decision was probably prompted by more than just the talks with Israel. Following the Red Cross survey earlier this week, Lebanon announced the ICRC could not fly back to the deportees' tent camp.

Red Cross officials have yet to respond to this report. They were unavailable for comment this morning.

Minister on Collapse of ICRC Talks

TA1501063793 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0505 GMT 15 Jan 93

[Telephone interview with Construction and Housing Minister Binyamin Ben-Eli'ezer by Me'ir Einstein—live]

[Text] [Einstein] As we have just heard, the negotiations with the International Committee of the Red Cross have collapsed. Why does Israel oppose the transfer of seven sick people from the deportee encampment to a hospital in Marj 'Uyun?

[Ben-Eli'ezer] Israel has set several rules—which are slightly different from even the line we initially took—

according to which it decided that once it is determined that the sick are critically ill, we will be willing to transfer them to the hospital in Marj 'Uyun. Right now, the entire area of the deportee encampment has turned into a stage for propaganda against Israel, and I am sorry to say this. We were willing to allow the return of one who was deported by mistake; we were willing to bring back the other nine; we were willing to deliver mail to them; we have decided that if anyone is proven to be critically ill, we will be willing to get him to a hospital. As you can see, we have started a certain procedure. Now, the other side is trying to break the rules and, slowly but surely, in a manner we cannot accept, is trying to encumber our agreements with additional things. We reject this.

[Einstein] So we are still embroiled in this affair?

[Ben-Eli'ezer] Look, this morning an attempt was made to murder Israeli citizens in central Tel Aviv. Allow me to remind you who those people we are discussing now are. I am sorry to say this, but we did not deport those people for a limited period because we wanted to but because they are a certain kind of people who belong to a certain kind of movement whose every action has but two goals: to launch murderous attacks on Israelis and to terminate the peace process. This is why we decided as we did. There is no need to deviate from this, and I believe that the world understands this today.

[Einstein] But how can we explain the deportation when we hear that there has been an attack in the heart of Tel Aviv and, as we just heard, the assailant just died of his wounds?

[Ben-Eli'ezer] What did you expect would happen to a person who runs amok in Tel Aviv stabbing people in an attempt to murder them?

[Einstein] I was trying to connect the attack to the deportation. I mentioned the fact that the assailant died to update our listeners.

[Ben-Eli'ezer] Let me explain: Israel decided to deport the Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] men for a limited period because, I believe, it realized that if it does not take a drastic and harsh step against Hamas, we will not be able to stop the process we have seen evolving in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza. I believe that, in time, this move by Israel will have an impact. We only have to show determination and adhere to our decision, while demonstrating the sensitivity we pledged at the High Court of Justice.

[Einstein] Binyamin Ben-Eli'ezer, thank you and good morning.

[Ben-Eli'ezer] Thank you.

Red Cross Allowed To Take Medicine to Deportees

NC1501150993 Paris AFP in English 1451 GMT 15 Jan 93

[Text] Jerusalem, Jan 15 (AFP)—Israel on Friday [15 January] agreed to allow the Red Cross to take medicine and letters to more than 400 Palestinian deportees stranded in south Lebanon, Defence Ministry spokesman 'Oded Ben-'Ami said.

He told AFP that the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) can take "medicine and letters" to the men who were expelled by Israel on December 17. The ICRC will also distribute forms to allow the men to appeal against their expulsion, he added.

ICRC chief delegate in Israel Reto Meister confirmed the report.

The ICRC reached a compromise with the authorities to provide minimum humanitarian aid to the deportees during its next trip to the camp, he said.

The men—Muslim fundamentalist suspects—have been trapped between the Israeli and Lebanese Armies in a barren no-man's land in south Lebanon as both countries refuse to take responsibility for them.

The Red Cross helicoptered out two deportees, one sick and the other a 16-year-old expelled by mistake, when Israel allowed a visit on January 9.

'Authoritative' Palestinian Proposes Deal

TA1501120193 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 15 Jan 93 pp 1, 4

[Report by Pe'erli Shahar and Pinhas 'Inbari]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Our correspondent has learned that an authoritative Palestinian figure is offering a comprehensive package deal according to which Israel would allow the deportees to return, disband the special undercover units, halt the searches for wanted men, and withdraw from populated areas. In exchange, the Palestinians would stop using firearms and would put an end to the killing of Israelis and collaborators.

According to this Palestinian figure, Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] would take part in such a deal. The figure, who prefers to remain anonymous, belongs to the mainstream Palestinian circles which support the peace process.

The Palestinian figure claims that the intifadah cannot be stopped at this point, but a deal including the above-mentioned points can be achieved. Our correspondent recalls that Prime Minister Rabin recently proposed to allow the deportees to return in exchange for the Palestinians' stopping the intifadah. Our correspondent notes that the principle is similar in both proposals, but the details differ.

Government Criticized for Deportee Affair

TA1401170393 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 13 Jan 93 p B1

[Commentary by Ze'ev Schiff: "The Mistakes Which Preceded the Deportations"]

[Text] Everything happening today in the deportee context stems at least in part from Israel's mistakes throughout the affair. Even if the deportations had been carried out smoothly, it is hard to believe that the international community would have looked the other way. But when 10 people are mistakenly expelled from their homeland, and the mistake remains unrectified for weeks although the 10 are stuck in snow—it looks suspicious. Even those who are ready to understand the motives behind Israel's sharp reaction to the Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] terror, feel uneasy. It is absurd to offer arguments, such as that those who were deported by mistake are villains too, or that the weather at the time of the deportation was harsh, or that the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] had to act under great pressure, and the mistakes should therefore be received with understanding. They are similar to the argument that a doctor, who was under a lot of pressure, should be understood for having mistakenly operated on the wrong patient.

Yitzhaq Rabin knows it, and the proof is the harsh criticism he leveled at the IDF in the presence of the chief of staff at one of the cabinet meetings during a debate on the issue. The problem is that the damage caused by these mistakes is not a one-time affair, it is continuous. Having admitted to mistakenly deporting 10 people, Israel should have rectified the mistake at once. Instead, it toys with trivial matters and plays foolish games of prestige. Does Israel's prestige depend on the question of which gate the 10 deportees will return through—Rosh Haniqra or the Zummarayya pass? Is this the crux of the matter? The Lebanese Government is being obtuse, but like the other Arabs, it is obviously trying to make the most of Israel's mistakes and to embarrass Israel. Also, it does not want Israel ever to expel Palestinians into its territory again.

In addition, it is more obvious today that no thorough preparatory work had been done prior to the massive deportation of Hamas activists. This is something Israel could afford to do 20 years ago, but not today, not under the new conditions, and above all, not in the midst of a peace process. The idea to carry out a mass deportation was born in the prime minister's mind before the cabinet convened to discuss the situation. Rabin even spelled out the number of deportees before the meeting. I have found no proof that a short list of less than 10 deportees had been submitted to Rabin. The list was prepared by the Shin Bet, not the IDF. Rabin was asked why 400 deportees, and his answer implied that the number was random, and the main objective was to devise a massive response to acts of murder perpetrated by Hamas. When the cabinet discussed the deportation, the need to deport as many as 300 people was mentioned. Minister Shulamit Aloni did voice objection to the figure but did not bother to qualify her support for the deportation nevertheless.

Given his experience, Rabin must have known that the operation would be complicated because there was so little time for preparations. He may have feared leaks, and for that reason abstained from ordering preparations the evening before. Rabin's fear of a leak was indeed justified; it is believed to have emanated from the Civil Administration in the territories. The leak sent the prospective deportees' attorneys to the High Court of Justice, beginning the race against the clock. The Lebanese, who found out that preparations for deportations were under way, decided not to allow Israel to turn their country into a junkyard yet again. As a result, an encampment was set up in southern Lebanon which promptly became the stage of anti-Israeli propaganda.

It is very doubtful that Hamas will permit the deportees to disperse, or that another location will be found for them before the next round of peace talks starts in February. Hamas regards the event as an opportunity to encumber the peace process, and even to push the PLO into a corner. If the Palestinians agree to come to the talks, Israel will be put to another kind of test. Israel has received an unofficial American proposal suggesting that this is the right moment to prove that while it is tough toward terrorists, it is willing to show a victor's generosity to groups supporting the political process. Israel claims that the negotiations are stuck because of 'Arafat. But while 'Arafat's instructions to his representatives may be obstructing the process, we have not helped him or made his task easier either.

We cannot, for instance, assert that we will not negotiate with PLO-Tunis, but at the same time refuse to talk to the head of the Palestinian delegation from the territories, Faysal al-Husayni. We cannot complain that the territories delegation is weak and unrepresentative, and at the same time proceed to weaken it by refusing to accept its advisers because they live in East Jerusalem. Eventually, Israel will talk both with Faysal al-Husayni and the advisers. Then why does it have to procrastinate until the U.S. President himself sees fit to receive al-Husayni?

The second illustration has to do with the territorial aspect of autonomy. Israel has refused to commit itself to the boundaries of autonomy, and the impression is that it intends to set up numerous Palestinian enclaves. A Palestinian delegation presenting this proposal to its public has no chance of rounding up any support. If this is what Israel wishes to achieve, everyone should know it, but if we mean something else, our intentions should be clearly enunciated to prevent misunderstandings. This is the time to do it, and Rabin will do well not to examine everything through the lens of what the Likud promised Egypt in the 1981 talks. Has not the prime minister promised the public to take a different course of action?

Labor Secretary Meets al-Husayni in E. Jerusalem

TA1201183493 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1800 GMT 12 Jan 93

[Text] Labor Movement Secretary Nisim Zvili this evening conferred in East Jerusalem with Faysal al-Husayni and several members of the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks. Palestinian sources told our correspondent Moti Amir that in the meeting, al-Husayni asked Zvili to convince Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin to cancel the deportation of the Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] members in order to accelerate the peace process and create a comfortable atmosphere in the negotiations.

Affair May Threaten Netanyahu's Leadership Quest

TA1501055693 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 15 Jan 93

[Text] Likud Knesset Member [MK] Binyamin Netanyahu has confirmed that he had an extramarital affair. He told Israel Television last night it ended a couple of months ago and is a personal matter. He also said that his wife received an anonymous telephone call, warning that a videotape revealing the affair would be made public unless her husband withdrew his candidacy for the chairmanship of the Likud. Netanyahu said a senior member of the Likud is behind the threat and that he intends to hand over all the information to the appropriate authorities. The Likud MK said the private life of a candidate is not an issue for the public. Netanyahu maintained that instead a candidate should be judged by his actions and his political programs.

Another candidate for the Likud leadership, MK David Levi, has called the threat against Netanyahu a vile act. Levi called on Netanyahu to hand over all information to the police immediately and to name the Likud official Netanyahu says tried to blackmail him. He expressed shock at allegations that members of Levi's camp may be behind the threat.

'Ezer Weizman To Be Labor's Presidential Candidate

TA1401184593 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1800 GMT 14 Jan 93

[Excerpt] 'Ezer Weizman has won today's vote in the Labor party's Central Committee and becomes the party's candidate for the state presidency. He received 52 percent of the vote, compared to 24 percent for Shlomo Hilel and 23 percent for Arye Eli'av. [passage omitted]

Four Injured, 1 Critically, in Tel Aviv Attack

TA1501062693 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0600 GMT 15 Jan 93

[Text] An Arab resident of Gaza stabbed four people at the Tel Aviv central bus station this morning. One of the four was critically injured, two are suffering from moderate injuries, and the fourth was slightly injured. The assailant was shot by a passerby, critically injured, and died of his wounds soon after. The wounded were taken to Ichilov Hospital in Tel Aviv.

Our correspondent 'Ofra Nehmad reports that the four were stabbed in the back, some of them in the lungs. Our correspondent Shim'on Vilna'i reports that large police and Border Police forces arrived at the site. Dozens of laborers from the territories who were in the area have been detained for questioning. At the moment, it seems that the 25-year-old Gaza assailant operated alone and unassisted.

Assailant Said To Belong to Islamic Jihad

TA1501125593

[Editorial Report] On its 1005 GMT midday reel on 15 January, Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew carries several reports on the Tel Aviv stabbing incident, providing the following additional details: "The terrorist assailant," identified as Fakhri Dahduh, "was a 25-year-old Gaza resident who belonged to the Islamic Jihad and did not have a permit to work in Israel." The man "wielded two large knives during the attack, and another knife was found on his body. It appears that he acted alone and unassisted."

Youth Killed, 21 Wounded in 'Acute' Gaza Riots

TA1401211493 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 2100 GMT 14 Jan 93

[Text] Ahmad 'Abbadin, a Khan Yunus resident of about 14 years of age, was killed by security forces' gunfire in the course of acute riots in the town tonight. His body was transferred to the Khan Yunus hospital.

A representative of the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] spokesman said that 21 local residents were injured in the course of clashes with the security forces. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that the riots began in the wake of an operation in which fugitives were hunted in a Khan Yunus neighborhood. According to local residents, 35 locals were injured by IDF gunfire in the course of the serious riots and a 14-year-old youth was killed.

Update on Incidents in Territories 13 Jan

TA1401151793 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 14 Jan 93 p A7

[Report by army affairs correspondent Eytan Rabin]

[Excerpts] Four youths were injured yesterday afternoon in the village of Burqa' in the Nabulus District during a clash between soldiers and stone-throwing youths.

The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] spokesman reported that an IDF force on initiated activity near Burqa' spotted several youngsters hurling stones at Israeli cars. The spokesman said that when the soldiers saw the stonethrowers, several shots were fired at the troops.

Palestinian sources claimed that two of the injured youths, aged 14 and 15, were seriously wounded, a 15-year-old youth was moderately injured, and another 15-year-old was lightly injured.

Palestinian sources reported that at least two other residents were injured in the incident, one of them in the foot.

The IDF spokesman said that three of the wounded youths received medical treatment from an army doctor at the scene and were later evacuated to al-Ittihad Hospital in Nabulus. One of the injured was taken to Rafidiyah Hospital in Nabulus.

The spokesman reported that the IDF was investigating the circumstances of the incident.

In another incident which took place yesterday in Qalqilyah, which was the third within one day, a local youth attempted to stab an IDF officer from the Civil Administration. The IDF spokesman reported that Riyad Fawzi Sa'id 'Ali, a 30-year-old resident of Iktabah tried to stab an IDF officer yesterday morning at 1000 in the Qalqilyah market. The spokesman said that the officer saw the youth coming and fired at him. The assailant was lightly injured and evacuated for medical treatment. The IDF closed off the Qalqilyah area and launched an investigation and searches. [passage omitted]

Four residents were injured yesterday during clashes in the Jabalyah refugee camp in the Gaza Strip. Palestinian sources reported that yesterday there was an attempt to murder a Gaza Strip resident suspected of collaborating with the authorities. The youth, who was stabbed, was taken to hospital. Approximately 45,000 Gaza Strip residents left for work in Israel yesterday.

Yesterday, the security forces sealed the house of Nasir Isma'il Sulayman from al-Zahiriyah in the Hebron District who was arrested in February 1992 and admitted to taking part in the wounding and attempted murder of Yoram Aberjil from Moshav Brosh. [passage omitted]

Black Panther Member Shot Dead in West Bank

TA1401085493 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0800 GMT 14 Jan 93

[Text] Last night, border policemen spotted two wanted men, belonging to the Black Panthers, hiding in a house in the village of Maythalun, near Janin. The policemen encircled the house and called on the tenants to leave the building. The family that lives in the house and whose members include a baby came out. The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] spokesman told our correspondent Moti Amir that the wanted men did not heed the call to surrender, and only after several grenades were hurled into the building did one of them come out and give himself up. When the policemen fired antitank rockets into the building, the second wanted man tried to escape and was shot dead.

The dead man is 'Ali Muhammad, aged about 27, the Black Panther leader in al-Judayyidah. He has been on the wanted list for a year and is suspected of murder, interrogating Arabs suspected of collaborating with the authorities, and several attacks against the security forces. During the operation, several people suspected of aiding the terrorists were detained.

Dayr al-Balah Resident Killed in IDF Clash

TA1501064193 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0600 GMT 15 Jan 93

[Text] Last night, a resident of Dayr al-Balah was killed by security forces fire during an operation against armed fugitives. It seems, however, that the fugitives managed to escape. Local residents have reported that the fugitives hid inside a house, held hostages, and did not allow the residents of the house to go out, as the security forces demanded.

IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldiers fired antitank missiles at a group of houses in one of which the fugitives were holed up. As a result of the fire, one house was completely destroyed and four were damaged, two of them badly. The IDF spokesman reported that during the incident, a man was seen attempting to run away from the house. A soldier spotted him and, after he issued a warning, shot and killed him.

Police Chief: Nationalistic Events Down in North

TA1401184793 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1800 GMT 14 Jan 93

[Text] The outgoing regional police commander in the north, Albert Musafiya, says nationalistic activity by Israeli Arabs was down last year by more than 50 percent compared to the year before. At a farewell reception in his honor, the regional police commander said it was the third year in a row that such incidents were down. He said he believes that Israeli Arabs have learned to carry out their protest activities in a democratic and peaceful way.

For his part, Shefar'am Mayor Ibrahim Nimr Husayn said Commander Musafiya and the police have shown understanding and consideration towards the Arabs during various protest activities and demonstrations.

860 'Collaborators' Killed in Intifadah

TA1201155493 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 12 Jan 93 p A5

[Report by military correspondent Eytan Rabin]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] The wave of murders of collaborators continues in the territories. Palestinian sources reported that a resident of Jabalyah, Mahin 'Abd-Rabbuh, 37, was taken away by masked men and murdered yesterday. His body was later found in the village. Palestinian sources said he was suspected of collaborating with the authorities.

It is noted that he is the seventh Gaza Strip inhabitant murdered in the past week on suspicion of collaboration. Since the intifadah began, 860 Palestinians have been murdered on suspicion of collaboration. Military sources said Sunday that the Army has in fact lost control and cannot prevent such killings. [passage omitted]

Brigadier General Gadi Zohar, head of the Civil Administration in Judaea and Samaria, met yesterday with members of Bethlehem University, including the president, in the

wake of the latest incidents on the campus, which included political rallies and gatherings by masked men.

Zohar warned the members of the university administration against any more such activity. The president said that the university is aware of the problem and promised to take action to prevent recurrences.

The universities in the territories opened for the 1991-92 year after their administrations promised that no political events would take place on campus. In recent weeks, since the deportations of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] activists, there have been many events at Bethlehem University, including appearances by masked men supporting actions against Israel and tents set up in solidarity with the deportees' encampment in Lebanon.

Israel-Based Reporters May Visit Syria

TA1401125793 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 14 Jan 93 p 11

[Report from Copenhagen by Eliyahu Zehavi]

[Excerpt] Under a shroud of secrecy, the editorial boards of several newspapers and Syrian embassies in various West European capitals have been holding contacts in the past few weeks on a possible visit to Damascus by journalists residing in Israel.

Syria has recently indicated willingness to allow a small number of journalists residing in Israel to visit Damascus to report on issues bothering the Israeli public opinion, such as the political situation and the condition of Jews in Syria.

These would be journalists with foreign or dual citizenship who write for foreign papers about events in Israel or journalists who work for both the foreign and the Israeli press. [passage omitted]

68 MK's Petition Clinton To Pardon Pollard

TA1501123793 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 15 Jan 93 p 5

[Report by Knesset correspondent Hayim Shibi]

[Text] Sixty-eight Knesset members [MK's] of all factions and colors of the political spectrum have signed a petition calling on U.S. President-elect Bill Clinton to pardon Jonathan Pollard.

MK Hanan Porat of the National Religious Party wrote to Clinton: "Pollard has already been punished enough."

Opposition Parties Submit No-Confidence Motions

TA1401141593 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 14 Jan 93 p A4

[Text] The Tzomet, Likud and NRP [National Religious Party] factions yesterday resubmitted their no-confidence motion in the government over the cancellation of guarantees for industry in the territories. The factions' representatives had intended to submit the motion already last week but decided to postpone their action in deference to Finance Minister Avraham Shohat's request.

Yesterday, in a short meeting between Finance Minister Shohat and Knesset members [MK's] from those factions, the finance minister reported that the cabinet remained adamant in its decision to abolish the government guarantees for industry in the territories. The Likud, Tzomet, and NRP MK's claimed that the cancellation of the guarantees was but another in a series of government decrees, which were leading to "the elimination of Jewish settlement in the territories and the withering of industries with exports worth millions of dollars annually."

Deputy Minister Gur Hospitalized 11 Jan

TA1201115493 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 12 Jan 93 p 12

[Report by Dvora Namir]

[Text] Deputy Defense Minister Mordekhay Gur was hospitalized again yesterday in the Ichilov Medical Center's surgery ward, from which he was discharged only three weeks ago.

His condition deteriorated again recently, and he is suffering from weakness and weight loss. He will remain in the hospital for several days, during which he will undergo thorough medical examinations.

Mordekhay Gur's previous hospitalization came after he reached a state of exhaustion, malnutrition, and dehydration after being unable to swallow liquids or food for five days.

Editorial Condemns 'Treacherous U.S. Aggression'

JN1401133393 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 14 Jan 93 pp 1, 17

[Editorial: "A Barbaric Treacherous Aggression Against Sisterly Iraq"]

[Text] It has become painfully clear that the treacherous U.S. aggression against sisterly Iraq was premeditated and the decision to launch it was a calculated one.

We are not acquainted with any laws, charters, or norms in the world that allow the Bush administration to cross entire continents to desecrate Iraq's territory and airspace, and to shell vital areas under the pretext that the Iraqis are moving around on their own soil.

The U.S. Administration allows its Air Force and those of its allies to desecrate Iraq, and denies Iraqis the right of movement in their homeland and sovereignty over their land and airspace.

Iraq has abided by all Security Council resolutions passed by the U.S. alliance over the past few weeks. Meanwhile, the U.S. alliance tried to incite sectarian and ethnic discord in hopes of dividing Iraq. The alliance imposed a no-fly zone in the south and a ban on aerial and ground activities in the north.

Launching a new treacherous aggression against Iraq under the pretext that it moved missiles on its land is unacceptable under anything other than the law of the jungle. As Jordan has repeatedly stated, the crisis could have been resolved through political dialogue and peaceful means without having to resort to the use of force. The Bush administration was not satisfied with the unjust siege it imposed on Iraq to suffocate its people, starve its children, and paralyze its life, so it planned this treacherous barbaric aggression against Iraq.

The U.S. Administration, which has dealt with Security Council resolutions with more than one standard and placed Israel above international resolutions and laws, has furnished evidence that it is an aggressive country that does not give eight to international law, charters, or human rights. It has also proven that it is prepared to incite destructive war and conflict anywhere in the world in an effort to torpedo world security and peace.

The Jordanian people, with all their popular and trade union organizations and establishments, while condemning this barbaric treacherous aggression against sisterly Iraq, call on the Arab nation and all honorable people in the world to stand beside Arab Islamic Iraq, to confront this aggression, and to prevent it from triggering a fierce war that may draw in vital parts of this region and set fires that could destroy everything.

Official Denies U.S. Refused Offer on Wheat Purchase

JN1401173193 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 14 Jan 93 p 1

[Text] Mustafa Khulayfat, secretary general of the Supply Ministry, has denied reports by international media that Washington has rejected a Jordanian offer to purchase around 100,000 tonnes of U.S. wheat. World media have reported that the U.S. Agriculture Department rejected the offer in accordance with with the U.S. Export Support Program.

The Supply Ministry is still negotiating prices with the U.S. It is noteworthy that U.S. wheat constitutes a large part of the ministry's imports.

Around 50,000 tonnes of U.S. wheat are scheduled to be shipped to Jordan within the next two months.

Interior Minister on Party Licenses, Action Front Split

PM1501093093 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 13 Jan 93 p 4

[Interview with Interior Minister Jawdat al-Subul by unidentified correspondent in Tunis; date not given]

[Text] [AL-HAYAH] After the rejection of three applications, it is being said that the Jordanian Interior Ministry has been strict in granting licenses for parties.

[Al-Subul] What refutes that view is the content of the decision not to grant licenses to parties if their charters are deemed by interpreters of law to violate in some of their stipulations the rules of the Constitution and the clauses of the parties law.

Interpretation in the law is permissible, thus disagreement is possible. And I as interior minister do not claim that all the decisions I have made in this connection are perfect. But I am certain that the decisions I have issued are based on the rules of effective legislation. And I emphasize that no prior position had been taken against any group that submitted an application for the establishment of a party. What governed matters before making the decision was just the technical aspect.

[AL-HAYAH] Will the ministry backtrack on its position if some of the clauses concerning the name, financing, or the aims are amended?

[Al-Subul] In the law there is something called "withdrawing the administrative decision." So if a group submits a written amendment to its charter, there is nothing to prevent reconsidering the decision. But the applicants submitted legal contestations in accordance with their right mentioned in the political parties law. And it is the court which is authorized to decide on the contestations and examine the decisions. Thus no one can comment on its decisions.

These decisions will be respected and implemented immediately by the Interior Ministry, regardless of their content and whether they rescind the decisions issued by the Interior Ministry (or some of them) or approve of them.

[AL-HAYAH] How many parties have requested licenses?

[Al-Subul] Twelve. We have accepted five and rejected three.

[AL-HAYAH] Are there any decisions which will be announced soon?

[Al-Subul] A decision will be issued in the middle of the month.

[AL-HAYAH] Some people say "government hands" are behind the recent split in the Islamic Action Front.

[Al-Subul] I have not heard that from the party's leaders. I met with Dr. Ishaq al-Farhan, the Front's secretary general, more than once, but he made no reference to this accusation, directly or indirectly. And I believe that his colleagues too know before anyone else that this allegation is absolutely baseless.

The group whose pullout was announced was described as "the independents." So it means that it included a group of people who did not belong to the Muslim Brotherhood group. And for a reason on which I cannot comment, this group submitted its resignation. Dr. al-Farhan's comment on the pullout was published in the newspapers. And anyone who wants further information can put this question to him.

[AL-HAYAH] Is it possible to know the results of the investigation into the incident concerning Iraqi scientist Dr. Mu'ayyad al-Janabi's assassination in Jordan?

[Al-Subul] The investigation phase is usually characterized by secrecy. This secrecy should be maintained, otherwise the investigation will not lead to the required results. There are two inherent principles: the secrecy of the investigation and the publicity of the trial and the exception and the secrecy of some of the court's deliberations. [sentence as published]

With regard to this crime, we are still in the investigation phase. A lot of what was published was inaccurate. It was based on information whose source is interpretation and speculation. The investigation is proceeding slowly and carefully.

Hizballah Radio Urges End to Saddam 'Curse'

NC1501084193 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0630 GMT 15 Jan 93

[Station commentary: "Coincidence"]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. No honest or good-intentioned analyst can regard events in Iraq as a coincidence, an aspect of Arabism, or a strong military card on the part of Saddam Husayn. These events cannot even be seen to reflect the pride or willfulness of a ruler who has decided to confront his enemy and adhere to his position until death. They cannot be seen as the tactical cleverness of a man, enabling him to discern priorities, be patient, and test the foe's nerves while holding a secret weapon that he gambles on using at the last moment, thus overcoming the enemies' weapons and outdoing their technology, destruction, and performance.

The situation and the facts negate the above. Coincidence does not dictate the policy of a state or states. Arabism and pride do not allow capitulation and subjugation or open Iraq's sky and land to the invaders, the secessionists, and the Jews searching for weapons that need to be destroyed. The UN resolutions constitute a complete defeat for Saddam's Iraq whether or not he admits this publicly. There is really no explanation for defiance followed by compliance after a beating and then for the so-called defiance again followed by compliance and the subjugation of the best and most courageous Arab army to destruction in the open desert, to humiliation, and to kissing the hands and feet of enemies in front of the press and television cameras. If Saddam had one iota of the pride of the obstinate and proud leader, he would have committed suicide after seeing pictures of his Army or at least resigned, admitted his failure or mistake, and allowed another official to take over.

Now that we have negated all the above possibilities, there remains only one of two. The first is that Saddam suffers paranoia, a disease that makes the victim believe he is the greatest man in the world but feel extremely weak when he is alone. This upsets his mood and whims for the most trifling reason. This diagnosis fits the mood of the Iraqi ruler, who is infamous for killing his comrades and aides and those closest to him. This diagnosis is reinforced when we hear that his wife has fled Iraq several times and they have never appeared together in public.

Is Saddam willing to pay such a price every time so that he can appear on television in military uniform and make rousing speeches to the people that are soon ridiculed by defeats and the consequences of loss and capitulation?

If this possibility exists, Saddam could be brought down from within by those who know him and are close to him. A gap in security could be created so that a sane and courageous Iraqi could penetrate and end the great curse afflicting the Arabs in their countries.

Paranoiacs may become obsessed with something and impotent about everything else. Saddam is obsessed with authority and personal security. While he miscalculates the enemy's weight and does not take responsibility for acts that exhausted the entire nation, he takes greater care about his power and his own safety.

The second possibility, which is more likely—indeed more logical—is that Saddam is directly or indirectly linked with Zionist-Western-American thought, used as an excuse to serve interests and to implement that alliance's schemes. Sometimes they use him, his weapons and Army, to attack the Islamic revolution [in Iran] and destroy the economy and institutions of Iran and Iraq. In seven years 700,000 were killed and wounded. On other occasions, the Zionist-Western-American alliance uses him as a pretext to reach Arab oil sources, fragment the Arabs, demean Arabism, and humiliatingly lead the Arab rulers to settlement negotiations with the Jewish entity.

It is coordination, nothing but coordination. Otherwise, how could Desert Storm be launched and labelled a third world war in terms of its military and political results, yet Saddam survives? How come half of Iraq is burned and its territory, people, history, and geography are divided, while Saddam escapes unhurt? Why does Bush not end Saddam's presence at the head of Iraq, then rest and let others rest too?

From the beginning, Saddam has been an American, Jewish, arrogant requirement when there has been a need for a pretext, tyrant dictator, or factor of confusion in the Arab and Islamic region, especially in the Gulf. For years, the media coverage given to Saddam Husayn has overshadowed many positive achievements in the nation's march of jihad. His weapons, wars, and occupation of and withdrawal from Kuwait overshadowed the news of the Palestinian intifadah in its heyday. News about him overshadows that about the deportees, the slaughtered, and the murdered in the Muslim and Arab world, from India to Bosnia, Palestine, and Algeria, to Egypt. Because of the weapons and wars, Israel multiplied its political, economic, and military strength and all the Arabs were driven to negotiate and to accept the status quo. Can Saddam screen all these losses from his people by his inflammatory rhetoric, as the BBC put it?

It is coordination, nothing but, between him and the Jewish-American mentality. Will the series continue? How long? The Iraqi revolutionaries and the remainder of the Iraqi Army know. Perhaps the most difficult and most dangerous fact is that events in Iraq no longer stir any aware Arab or Muslim. Saddam has alienated the Arabs' zeal, nationalist sense, and chivalry, God forbid.

Deportees Spokesman Says U.S. Remarks 'Positive'

NC1501103393 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1000 GMT 15 Jan 93

[Text] At a news conference this morning, Dr. 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Rantisi, official spokesman of the Palestinian

deportees, stressed that U.S. Secretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger does not demand sanctions against Israel but is afraid the UN Security Council will be forced to impose sanctions on it. Al-Rantisi considered Eagleburger's remarks positive, indicating that the United States will be greatly embarrassed if the UN Security Council issues a resolution imposing sanctions on Israel. Al-Rantisi asked whether the United States would veto such a resolution or keep quiet.

He said aid has not arrived in the camp for three days and the deportees will start a hunger strike in the next two days.

Speaker Stops in Damascus en Route to Tehran

NC1501073593 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0530 GMT 15 Jan 93

[Text] Chamber of Deputies Speaker Nabih Birri left Beirut for Tehran via Damascus yesterday. In Damascus, he and Lebanese Deputy Prime Minister Michel al-Murr met Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad and reviewed various developments.

Briefs President on Talks

NC1501122093 (Clandestine) Voice of the People in Arabic to Lebanon 1130 GMT 15 Jan 93

[Excerpt] Deputy Prime Minister Michel al-Murr briefed President Ilyas al-Hirawi on his talks yesterday with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad. The talks dealt with the Lebanese situation, the deportees, and regional developments.

Answering a question, al-Murr denied any knowledge of a scheduled visit to Beirut by Syrian Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi. He also denied any differences over administrative appointments. [passage omitted]

Phalangist Party Invites Dissidents To Return

NC1501121093 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2015 GMT 14 Jan 93

[Excerpt] Phalangist Party Secretary General Karim Paqraduni has announced a party decision appointing the heads of the transitional committees entrusted to run the affairs of the party's districts until the party's consultation meeting in June.

A news conference followed an extraordinary party meeting this evening under party leader Dr. George Sa'adah and was attended by all members except Political Bureau member Joe Sarkis, who is abroad. The party's secretary general, on behalf of the party leader and Political Bureau members, invited comrades who held a news conference today to return to the Phalangist Party. Paqraduni added: We extend our hands for a dialogue. Our minds are open for an agreement and our hearts are ready for amity among us. [passage omitted]

Party Said 'Heading Toward a Split'

NC1501082593 Shanayh Voice of the Mountain in Arabic 1230 GMT 14 Jan 93

[Text] The Phalangist Party is heading toward a split. Following attempts to cover up internal party disputes, the conflict came out into the open today when several regional Phalangist leaders held a news conference in al-Ashrafiyah. The Phalangist Party's General Secretariat, headquartered in al-Sayfiyah, issued a statement denouncing the news conference.

In al-Ashrafiyah, local party leaders held a news conference in which they pointed to a malaise within the party, blaming the party's leadership for its woes.

George Kassab, head of the Phalangist Party's Kasrawan office, read out a statement on behalf of the local party leaders, calling on the current Phalangist leadership to mend its ways to preserve unity within the party. The Phalangist Party is run by an indecisive leadership that seeks to appease others at the party's expense, Kassab stated. He said the decision appointing the heads of the local party offices was ill-advised and misguided. It cancels democracy and assaults the party's unity.

The statement, which Kassab read out, says: The current leadership is carelessly undermining the hard-won unity within the Phalangist Party. All Phalangist institutions are united in the effort to confront the policy of a certain group that wants to exploit the party and twist its rules to advance its own political and personal agenda. The current leadership has been adept at using grand slogans while implementing its shabby politics.

The statement ends with the following resolutions:

First, the decision concerning the appointments [of chiefs of local party offices] is declared illegal.

Second, the current leadership is called upon to immediately form an emergency committee to take measures to shore up democracy and unity within the party. That committee will hold a general constituent meeting to overhaul the party.

Third, the party's leadership should be elected directly by the party's rank and file.

Participating in al-Ashrafiyah gathering were the chiefs of the party offices in al-Ashrafiyah, Kasrawan, Jubayl, al-Mudawwar, B'abda, al-Zahrani, al-Nabatiyah, Zgharta, and al-Zawiyah. Also attending were representatives from upper al-Matn, al-Rumayl, Marj 'Uyun, Hasbayya, Bsharri, Ba'labakk-al-Hirmil, al-Shuf, al-Kurah, Tripoli, 'Akkar, Bint Jubayl, al-Batrun, and 'Alayh.

The Phalangist Party's General Secretariat today issued a statement lashing out at those who called for the meeting and the news conference in al-Ashrafiyah today. The Secretariat said the organizers of today's meeting

and news conference are an irresponsible group of lightweights with no official mandate to arrange such occasions. The Secretariat issued a statement saying that no meeting or news conference will be considered official unless approved by the party's leadership and Secretariat. So any resolutions passed at such gatherings will remain illegal.

The statement notes that the Phalangist Party has a legal right to discipline those attending such gatherings. The statement warns the Phalangists of the disruption such gatherings can cause, noting that the Phalangist Party has had more than its fair share of turbulence and trouble.

Sa'adah Denies Dissent in Party

NC1501121193 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0945 GMT 15 Jan 93

[Text] After meeting Maronite Patriarch Mar Nasrallah Butrus Sfayr, Phalangist Party leader George Sa'adah said the word dissent [khilaf] is wrong. There is no dissent within the Phalangist Party, because the party is democratic, and any differences are resolved internally in line with the party's regulations.

Sa'adah denied the party is heading for divorce. Leaving the party is as free as joining it, he said, adding that he is ready to provide guarantees for those who seek them. On meeting Lebanese Forces Commander Dr. Samir Ja'ja', Sa'adah said: I am ready to meet anybody; there are no personal differences between us.

Hizballah, Amal Members Clash in South

NC1401161093 (Clandestine) Voice of the South in Arabic to Lebanon 1430 GMT 14 Jan 93

[Text] We have received a report that a brawl took place the night before last in Yatar between Hizballah and Amal Movement elements. The incident took place when some Hizballah members set up checkpoints in Yatar and began stopping and searching passers-by. The operation soon extended to Qana and Hannawiyah. One of those searched in Yatar was an Amal Movement official in the western sector. After he and his car were searched, the Amal Movement set up checkpoints in Qana and Hannawiyah and began stopping and searching Hizballah members. This led to the argument and brawl between members of the two groups.

'Storming Operations' Uncover Weapons Depot

NC1401143893 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1015 GMT 14 Jan 93

[Text] As part of storming operations on weapon and contraband caches throughout Lebanese territory, a Lebanese Army unit stormed a weapons depot in al-Nab'ah-Burj Hammud area on the evening of 13 January. The depot belongs to the Lebanese Forces' al-Nab'ah battalion department.

The unit discovered a secret cache behind a dummy wall. The following weapons and ammunition were found: Three 107-mm rockets; four [word indistinct] machine guns; five RPG [rocket-propelled grenade] launchers; four RPG launcher telescopes; seven automatic machine guns; one 60-mm mortar gun; 53 RPG shells; 18,580 rounds of ammunition; 79 antivehicle and antipersonnel mines; 80 hand grenades; and several rifle magazines and military helmets.

Violence, Deaths in Camps Reported

NC1401193893 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 14 Jan 93

[Text] Our correspondent in Sidon has reported that there was tension in the 'Ayn al-Hulwah camp this afternoon following the fatal shooting of a Palestinian named Tariq Hamad in the camp's mosque. At approximately 1730 today, 'Ali Hasan Sinan was moved to Hammud Hospital in Sidon suffering from injuries. Muhammad Hurani, a pharmacist in the camp, was shot and killed by unknown assailants three days ago.

Over the past few months, 'Ayn al-Hulwah camp has been the scene of a settlement of accounts between loyalists of Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat and supporters of Abu-Nidal's Fatah—the Revolutionary Council.

Islamic Resistance Clashes With SLA 14 Jan

NC1401221393 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 2000 GMT 14 Jan 93

[Text] A NATIONAL NEWS AGENCY correspondent has reported that the Israeli occupation militia [reference to South Lebanese Army, SLA] clashed with an Islamic Resistance group on al-Shumariyah hill today. The clash was preceded by Israeli artillery shelling of the Iqlim al-Tuffah region.

The correspondent said that the occupation forces also shelled the al-Litani River basin. Warplanes, meanwhile, made frequent flights over the South.

Foreign Minister Comments on Air Raid Against Iraq

JN1401163893 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1615 GMT 14 Jan 93

[Text] Answering a question by the SYRIAN ARAB NEWS AGENCY, SANA, on Syria's stand toward the air raid against Iraq yesterday evening, which came as a response to violations of UN Security Council resolutions by Iraq and its continued harrassments of and renewed claim to Kuwait, Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' said: It is well-known that we oppose the policy of the Iraqi regime because it is a policy that immensely harmed the interests of the Iraqi people and the Arab nation.

He added: We firmly stand by Kuwait against Iraqi harrassment. However, we remain deeply concerned about the air strike against some Iraqi targets, which further exacerbates the suffering of the Iraqi people.

The foreign minister added that the continuation of such military operations will further complicate the situation in the region. This, he said, does not serve anyone's interests, especially since UN resolutions are being implemented on the Arabs and not on Israel.

Concluding his statement, Faruq al-Shar' said that what happened yesterday prompts us to reiterate the need to use a single standard in implementing UN Security Council resolutions and international legitimacy and to stop using double standards if peace and security are to be achieved in this region.

Need for Fairness in Applying UN Resolutions Stressed

JN1501072893 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0540 GMT 15 Jan 93

[From the press review]

[Text] The dailies' political commentaries and analyses today center on the need to apply international legitimacy on a single standard and without discrimination.

Under the headline "The Required Legitimacy," AL-THAWRAH says in a commentary: Answering questions by Syrian and Egyptian journalists at a news conference following the Syrian-Egyptian summit on Wednesday, President al-Asad said: We want international legitimacy to be applied everywhere, not in just selected places. We want legitimacy to be applied on all, and not only on some people.

AL-THAWRAH adds: President al-Asad takes such a view and position toward international legitimacy because events have confirmed that the standard used in the application of this legitimacy lacks balance when tackling many international issues, particularly those in this region.

The paper asserts that the position this legitimacy has taken toward Israel and its policies provides more than one piece of evidence on the double standards being employed. The United Nations has, in its capacity as the source of international legitimacy, issued scores of resolutions aimed at finding a just and comprehensive solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict that would lead to comprehensive peace in the region. Yet, none of these resolutions has been implemented and they have all remained mere ink on paper. The United Nations, more than any one else, understands who is responsible. It is Israel and its policies that are based on intransigence, rejection, and attempts to garner time.

The paper notes that Israel has employed all means of obstruction and procrastination when it comes to the peace process. Still, the forces of international legitimacy said nothing to blame Israel or hold it responsible for the failure to achieve progress in the peace talks, despite the fact that Israel's intransigent policy is clearly in defiance of international legitimacy.

The paper reviews Israel's practices that defy international legitimacy as demonstrated by its expulsion of hundreds of Palestinians from their country and families, and its refusal to comply with UN Security Council Resolution 799 calling for the deportees' return. The paper says Israel's refusal to go back on its crime makes the UN Security Council resolution nothing more than ink on paper.

AL-THAWRAH concludes by saying: If international legitimacy wishes to confirm its will and force people to respect it, then it must prove that it is truly an international legitimacy for all, and that it applies to all.

Al-Asad-Mubarak Talks, Chemical Ban Treaty Viewed

JN1401214693 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 14 Jan 93

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: After their meeting in Damascus yesterday, which came about within the context of the constant consultations between the two fraternal states, Syria and Egypt, Presidents Hafiz al-Asad and Husni Mubarak underscored a host of hot regional issues, foremost among which were the issue pertaining to the Palestinian deportees as well as Israel's responsibility for finding a solution to it, given its repercussions on the peace process. Similarly, they affirmed that international legitimacy must implement its decisions straightforwardly rather than selectively, as is happening nowadays.

Presidents al-Asad and Mubarak are agreed on the need for honoring international legitimacy and its resolutions. In the same vein, they affirmed their support for the territorial integrity of Iraq and their rejection of the partitioning of Iraq, because such an eventuality would have serious repercussions on pan-Arab security. They

noted that the countries which are asking Iraq to honor certain commitments to show compliance with the relevant Security Council resolutions have failed to accord other issues the same treatment being accorded to Iraq. This is an unmistakably clear reference to Israel's disobedience of international legitimacy and to its refusal to implement Security Council resolutions, the last of which being Resolution 799, which asks the Tel Aviv rulers to repatriate the Palestinian deportees to their houses and families and to ensure their safety, as they were deported without any cause or reason. As for the deportees, they are experiencing dangers to their lives as well as immense agonies caused by the harsh winter conditions, given the snow, ice, and rain surrounding them. The most basic requirements of survival have not been made available to them.

The ordeal of the Palestinian deportees is reminiscent of the attempts currently under way to rob the Arabs of their defensive capabilities at a time when the international community failed to heed the weapons of mass destruction currently in Israel's possession. His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad has indicated that well-informed Western newspapers deem Israel the fifth world nuclear power and believe that it is in possession of 50-200 nuclear warheads. The Arab states, including Syria and Egypt, have refused to sign the chemical weapons ban agreement unless nuclear weapons, which are the true weapons of mass destruction, given their most lethal and life-menacing effect, are banned. His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad declared that Syria and Egypt support the elimination of all weapons of mass destruction in the region. However, the Paris treaty has failed to incorporate this premise. This is because it provides for banning chemical weapons, while completely ignoring nuclear weapons; and this is a great injustice. This is because the Arabs are meant to be victimized. It looks as if the whole story is meant to rob them of the means of self-defense and to give free rein to the tremendous Israeli arms arsenal, which comprises all types of weapons, including the fatal nuclear weapons. It is worth noting that the big world states, foremost which being the United States and the Russian Federation, signed several treaties to reduce their nuclear arms arsenals. The last of these treaties has been START II, which provides for the destruction of two thirds of the nuclear missiles in the possession of the two countries. While this is being done, Israel's nuclear weapons are being ignored, even though Israel is the only country in the region which possesses nuclear warheads. Meanwhile, the Arabs are being asked to abandon their weapons. If this were to be put into effect, this would leave all Arab states at Israel's mercy, nurture Israel's aggressive and expansionist intentions, and deal a fatal blow to the peace process.

Thus far, Israeli rulers have never expressed a willingness to implement the relevant Security Council resolutions, which provide for withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories and for the restoration of the Palestinian people's rights. Indeed, their moves and practices run counter to the requirements of the peace process. For, the Washington talks have made no worth-mentioning progress. Worse still, Israel has deported the Palestinians and rejected the latest Security Council resolution, deeming itself a state above international law and international legitimacy.

For his part, President Mubarak indicated that the Arabs approve the elimination of all weapons of mass destruction, provided that Israel does the same. This is because nuclear weapons are highly more dangerous than chemical weapons.

Lastly, the talks held between Presidents al-Asad and Mubarak constitute a new push for joint Arab action. Consequently, they will yield fruitful results and promote the nation's causes. Syria and Egypt are the mainstay of Arab solidarity. They are the nation's heart and its wings. The Arabs in all Arab states look forward to the continued coordination between the two countries, given the threats and serious developments currently enveloping the Arab region, foremost among which being the issue pertaining to the Palestinian deportees.

Al-Asad Receives Lebanese Deputy Prime Minister

JN1401164993 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1615 GMT 14 Jan 93

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad received Lebanese Deputy Prime Minister Michel al-Murr at 1330 today. Discussion revolved around issues of interest to Syria and Lebanon.

Afghanistan

National Salvation Front Leaders Killed in Kabul Attacks

LD1401213993 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 2030 GMT 14 Jan 93

[Text] Two high-ranking members of the Afghan National Salvation Front [Jebhe-ye Nejat-e Meli-ye Afghanistan], which is led by Sebqatollah Mojaddedi, were killed in a rocket attack against the city of Kabul.

According to a report by our correspondent in Kabul, this happened when the war resumed, after a one-day lull, in the west of Kabul on Thursday between the forces belonging to Hekmatyar's Hezb-e Eslami and Sayyaf's Ettehad-e Eslami. The fighting also went on fiercely throughout Wednesday night.

During the battles, the two sides used guns, tanks, and Katyusha missiles against each other.

Gunmen Seize Iranian Embassy Vehicle in Kabul

LD1401165793 Tehran IRNA in English 1630 GMT 14 Jan 93

[Text] Kabul, Jan. 14, IRNA—Unidentified gunmen hijacked a pick-up van belonging to the Islamic Republic embassy from one of the main streets here today. The hooligans forced out the passengers, who were embassy staff, at gun point before the eyes of bystanders and then drove away with the van. The incident occured near a government check-post while the crew of the van were procuring foodstuff and other requirements for the embassy. This is the second van of the Iranian Embassy stolen here over the past seven months.

Kabul Seen Nearing Destitution, Anarchy

93AS0366A Frankfurt/Main FRANKFURTER ALLGEMEINE in German 6 Jan 93 p 6

[Article by Dr. S.A. Asis Najibi, former teacher at the University of Kabul and now working with the German Foundation for International Development and the GTZ [Society for Technical Cooperation]: "What Is Happening in Kabul Is Frightful and Ruthless; No Security, No Life in the Afghan Capital"; first paragraph is FRANKFURTER ALLGEMEINE introduction]

[Text] The news reaching the world from Afghanistan is becoming increasingly meager. Foreign correspondents are avoiding the country and above all the capital city of Kabul, where there is still fighting and living conditions are becoming more and more difficult. It is said that about half a million inhabitants of Kabul have fled since the collapse of the Najibollah regime. They are either roaming about the country or are refilling the refugee camps in Pakistan, which had become half empty. All attempts so far to build a viable central government have failed. The conditions in Afghanistan are almost like those in Somalia before the UN intervention under American leadership. An Afghan living in Germany, who recently visited Kabul and Herat after a long absence, returned to Germany shaken by the situation in his homeland. His report in the first person reads like a desperate cry of help to foreign countries, which no longer seem interested in Afghanistan after the withdrawal of the Russians and the fall of Najibollah.

I am writing this for two reasons. First, many women and men asked that I swear to convey their concern, their desperation, and their voice to the world; second, I also feel responsible as an Afghan to make my contribution to alleviate the hopeless conditions. I am neither a journalist nor a writer but will nevertheless try to report realistically on my experiences without favoring any particular group.

The reason for my trip was a commission from the "Specialists Program for Afghanistan" of the Society for Technical Cooperation (GTZ) in Eschborn near Frankfurt to gather material on "the role of education in the reconstruction of Afghanistan." Despite the nocturnal curfew, I was able to move freely in Kabul with its more than 2 million inhabitants, and was able to pass through the many guard posts and roadblocks during the day without complications. What shook me is the great poverty and hunger in a city that I had to leave 14 years ago and that I remembered as a prosperous and colorful city. The food prices are out of reach for much of the population. A flat loaf of bread (about 200 grams) costs 100 afghanis. A family of five needs five loaves of bread per day. So they must spend 15,000 afghanis a month just for bread. That is more than a high-ranking official earns in a month. For this reason, everyone must supplement his income with all sorts of odd jobs. The Afghan currency is losing value constantly despite massive intervention by the Afghan Central Bank. In the bazaar today, one receives 720 afghani for a German mark. In 1970, the ratio was still 20:1.

No one is looking after the population during this hard winter that came early. The prices for fuel and heating are rising from day to day. The people are freezing, because they do not have any winter clothes. Many buildings have no more window panes because of the war and other destruction. In many wards, for example in Karta-e se [as published] to the southwest of Kabul, the window panes were recently knocked out for the third time in a year. Many people are living without heat and light. For 22 nights, I wrote my notes by candlelight.

There were no lectures at the University of Kabul this year, but I was still able to visit some schools in November 1992. They were then closed earlier than usual because of the cold and were in operation only about three months this school year. The pupils had to be sent home without completing their studies. A large share of the schoolboys and schoolgirls as well as the teachers have fled abroad because of the precarious situation in Kabul. Depressing and hopeless conditions

prevailed in the schools: mental disturbances, malnutrition, and insufficient clothing. I later thought about what would happen if I would endeavor to find partner schools in Germany or somewhere else to provide financial and intellectual support for some school or other. In the capital city of Kabul, such aid for self-help would be made more difficult by the continuing unrest. But one could start this right away in the provinces, perhaps in Herat, Qandahar, or Nangarhar, where relative calm and order prevail.

The following was told to me by an intellectual, who did not want to be mentioned by name: "We in this country experienced 14 years of war, destruction, and persecution by the KHAD secret police with its merciless methods of torture. It is time for a government to be formed on a broad basis that is accepted by all parts of the population and is capable of providing for order and security in the country. The heavy weapons would have to be turned over to a newly established force so that the long-awaited peace could finally return. After 14 years of a communist reign of terror and occupation by the Soviet Union, the people were very optimistic when Najibollah abdicated on 16 April 1992 and the mojahedin took Kabul a few weeks later. The people warmly welcomed their liberators. Unfortunately, however, this joy did not last long. Many months have past since then and the rivalry between the groups of mojahedin has continued to get stronger. There is constant murder and pillaging in the government coalition and the civilian population is suffering from that. In August, the Hezb-e Eslami (Islamic Party) of Hekmatyar fired rockets at Kabul for 20 days, and 2,500 people lost their lives."

When I was in Kabul in December 1992, there were conflicts between two rivaling parties involved in the governing coalition, namely between Hezb-e Wahdat (an alliance of several Shi'ite groupings) and Shura-ye Nezar (supporters of Defense Minister Ahmad Shah Mas'ud, who belongs to Jam'iat-e Eslami, the Islamic Society of State President Rabbani). Another 1,000 people were wounded or killed in these battles, and houses and dwellings were destroyed or damaged in the various parts of the city around the Maywand Highway (Chendaol [as published]), Deh Mazang [as published] , Karta-e se, and Silo-ye [as published] Kabul. In the strongly contested district of Karta-e se, where I was held from 4-9 December 1992, there were many wounded and dead. There was not only shooting but also pillaging. I cannot forget how on 5 December a 22-year-old woman, seven months pregnant, was killed by a grenade fragment. The body could not be duried for three days due to the indiscriminant shooting.

What is happening in Kabul is frightful and ruthless. Everyone wants to enlarge his sphere of influence and thereby strengthen his position in the government. President Rabbani, who by rotation was supposed to give up his post on 15 December, refused to do so with the justification that he wants to stay in power until he has convened the Shura-ye Hal wa 'Aqd (Resolution and Settlement Council), which is supposed to decide on the election of a new president and interim government. Other than Rabbani und Sayyaf, the leader of the Islamic Union of Afghanistan, all the leaders have accused Rabbani of abusing his office and have proposed postponing the convocation of the Shura for five months. This discord increased the tension in the capital city and caused thousands of inhabitants to flee Kabul. The citizens of Kabul are fed up with all the feuds and acts of revenge as well as the intolerance that are continually leading to deaths and injuries and supposedly can be attributed to "misunderstandings," as Radio Kabul officially announced this time. Besides the groups of mojahedin, there is also General A. Rashid Dustam, who has changed sides several times and whose Uzbek militia had supported the mojahedin in the capture of Kabul in April. On 8 December, after an agreement on a ceasefire was reached between the two rival groups at around 1700, the Dustam-militia went over to the side of the Shi'ite Hezb-e Wahdat. Dustam's Uzbek militia fought in the microregion residential quarter with Mas'ud's Shura-ye Nezar and again there were many killed and wounded among the civilian population. Dustam's militia had occupied all of the security posts of the government around the presidential palace, Defense Ministry, and airport and the next morning two aircraft flew low over the government district as I traveled on foot from the city district Karta-e se on my way to friends in the district of Wazir-Akbar-Khan.

There a man told me what he had experienced at midday: "It was around noon and a car of one of the commandants here was going down the street. A cyclist rode alongside it hurriedly. The car pulled up and the cyclist was cursed. The occupants of the car then shot at his bicycle and leg. I went to the commandant and asked what this person had done wrong. The answer was that his warriors had no experience and had lost their nerves. I then brought the injured man to a hospital for treatment. Things like that happen every day here in Kabul."

He asked me to convey the voice of the despairing to international human rights organizations. I did not find newspapers in any store in Kabul during my four weeks there. The state radio and television do not bring any bad news. Of course one can receive the BBC in Kabul in Pashtu and Dari and in this way learn something about what is happening in Kabul. Deutsche Welle, on the other hand, has no reporters in Kabul and is not very helpful.

The result: The parties, which had found an unstable arrangement under the influence of the respective governments in their exile in Pakistan and Iran, have brought along their incrusted system and a small group of inexperienced advisers and relatives. With this they want to govern in Kabul. The experienced politicians either sit at home or are abroad and hardly in demand. What the governing politicians say is not being implemented. The ministries are besieged by petitioners and are more like a serail than an administrative office. The few remaining officials can scarcely accomplish anything. So this government is even weaker than was the

regime of Najibollah under the influence of the Soviets, for Najibollah reigned in Kabul with a certain "order," although he acted brutally and inhumanly. There are now too many "governments" in Kabul. Every commandant and every party is working for itself, against the others. No one obeys the government apparatus. Where possible, everyone tries to increase his influence at the expense of the others. The offices to which people are appointed and that they accept do not correspond to the qualifications, capabilities, and experience of the candidate. The offices are occupied only through contacts and force.

In view of the chaos and anarchy, many Afghans are again putting their hopes on outside help—the United Nations, for example. One often hears the opinion that this government is incapable of solving Afghanistan's problems through peaceful means. Aid is ending up in the wrong channels and in the black market. If one wants to alleviate the distress of the people, one must bring about order and security through UN troops so that the situation will not become even worse and lead to Somali-type conditions.

I left the city of Kabul both crying and laughing and promised my countrymen that I would not abandon them.

Officers Welcome Constituent Council Resolutions

LD1501000393 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 14 Jan 93

[Text] Esteemed Mohammad Yunos Qanuni, General Head of the Army's Political Affairs, took part today in a meeting held in the headquarters of the Islamic Revolution Defense Command, to express support for the historic decisions of the Shura-e Ahl-e Hal Wa Aqd [Constituent Council].

The military section of the Bakhtar News Agency reported that at the start of this meeting, attended by the officers, generals, and personnel of this command, a few verses from the holy Koran was read aloud. The General Commander of the Islamic Revolution Defense Command, spoke about the combat preparedness of the personnel of the units and companies of this command and their readiness for the discharge of every national and Islamic duty, under the command of the Ministry of Defense.

Mohammad Yunos Qanuni then spoke in detail about the victory of the Islamic revolution, the foiling of every conspiracy, dealing with obstacles and the hostile propaganda (?against the government) and he said: The Islamic revolution succeeded in the country by the will and determination of the Mojahed and faithful nation of Afghanistan. No conspiracy can change the course of the Islamic revolution and the will and determination of our Muslim nation.

The Head of political affairs of the General Command of the Islamic Revolution Defense then spoke on behalf of the leadership delegation and other personnel of this command, and he welcomed the successful convocation of the Shura-e Ahl-e Hal wa Aqd and expressed his support for the election of esteemed professor Borhanoddin Rabbani, as the first president of the Islamic State of Afghanistan. This meeting ended after offering prayer for the progress of the homeland.

Tajikistan's Rahmonov Congratulates Rabbani on Election

LD1401233593 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 14 Jan 93

[Text] Imamali Rakhmonov, chairman of the Supreme Soviet of Tajikistan has sent a message of congratulation to Kabul addressed to Professor Burhanoddin Rabbani, president of the Islamic State of Afghanistan on his election as president of the Islamic State of Afghanistan. The message reads as follows:

His Excellency Professor Burhanoddin Rabbani, president of the Islamic State of Afghanistan. I convey my sincere congratulations on the occasion of your election as the president of the Islamic State of Afghanistan and wish you successes in the establishment of peace and tranquility, and the unity of the people of Afghanistan.

The ancient historical and cultural ties and the popular traditions join together the people of the Republic of Tajikistan and the Islamic State of Afghanistan.

I am confident that your election to this high post will strengthen these ties. The Republic of Tajikistan has long historical roots with the Islamic State of Afghanistan, and I hope that the friendship and fraternity [word indistinct] in all the stages of history remain as such.

Bangladesh

Group Claims 18 Deaths in Police Custody in 1992

BK1501070893 Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 6 Jan 93 p 3

[Text] Some 18 people died in police custody and jail in the country during 1992, a local human rights organization claimed in Dhaka on Tuesday [5 January], reports United News of Bangladesh.

A press release of the Human Rights Journalists Forum of Bangladesh said nine people died in police custody while another nine [died] in different jails between January 2 and November 5, 1992.

India

Rao Visits Riot-Torn Bombay; Assesses Situation

BK1501091093 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 15 Jan 93

[Text] The prime minister today visited some of the riot-hit areas of Bombay and its suburbs. Soon after his

arrival at Bombay Airport this morning, Mr. Narasimha Rao drove straight to (Wakola), Kherbari, Nirmal Nagar, Mahim, Parel, rail road areas and took stock of the situation. Mr. Rao also went to the Nair Hospital in central Bombay and spoke to some of the victims undergoing treatment there. The overall situation in the affected areas of Bombay is fast returning to normal. No major untoward incident has been reported so far, except two cases of arson in the northeastern suburbs of the city. The police have recovered a huge quantity of lethal weapons and 15 persons have been detained. However, tension is prevailing in Bikrauli and Anterp Hill where three persons were burned to death in a car yesterday. Curfew relaxation has been given in varying periods in different localities today.

The riot-affected areas in Gujarat are limping back to normal and Ahmedabad is peaceful. According to official sources, no untoward incident has been reported in the city during the curfew relaxation period today. However, Shahpur police station area continues to be under curfew. Our Ahmedabad correspondent says shops and markets are open and the people are coming out in large numbers to purchase essential commodities. Buses and vehicles are also plying normally.

Curfew Relaxed in 8 Areas

BK1501041893 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 15 Jan 93

[Text] The situation remained peaceful in Bombay city and its suburbs last night. Curfew is being relaxed from 0600 hours to 1500 hours in eight police station areas of Peondi, Dongri, Dharvi, Yogeshwari, Ghatkopar, Nagpara, Deonar, and B.B. Road. Twelve deaths have been reported during the last 24 hours. According to the Bombay police commissioner, there was only one major incident when three occupants of a car were killed at Anterp Hill in central Bombay. A Shiv Sena MLA [Member of Legislative Assembly] was arrested yesterday along with five others after recovery of arms from the jeep in which they were travelling.

'Show Cause' Notices Served To Militant Hindu Groups

BK1501043293 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 15 Jan 93

[Text] Show cause notices have been given to VHP [Vishwa Hindu Parishad], RSS [Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh], and Bajrang Dal by the Unlawful Activities Prevention Tribunal headed by Mr. Justice P.K. Bari why they should not be declared unlawful. [sentence as heard] These organizations have been given 30 days time to submit in writing their reply to the show cause notices. The notices were issued in New Delhi yesterday by the registrar of the tribunal, Mr. S.M. Saxena.

Reducing Pakistani Mission Staff Said Not Retaliatory

BK1401132293 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 14 Jan 93

[Text] New Delhi today made it clear that its decision to reduce the strength of personnel in the Pakistan High Commission is not a retaliatory step as described by Islamabad. An External Affairs Ministry spokesman said in New Delhi today that the step is based on an initiative and suggestion made entirely by Pakistan. He said it was Pakistan which unilaterally decided on parity between the diplomatic missions regardless of difficulties this would create.

BJP Demands Dismissal of Maharashtra Government

BK1401160293 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 14 Jan 93

[Text] The BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] has demanded the dismissal of Maharashtra government and dissolution of the assembly. Talking to newsmen, the party vice president, Mr. K.R. Malkani, said a meeting of the party officebearers in New Delhi today discussed the situation in Maharashtra and Gujarat. The party asked the center to come out with all facts regarding violence and what it proposes to do to expose the alleged involvement of a foreign hand.

Kashmir Government Orders Inquiry Into Sopor Incident

BK1401162493 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 14 Jan 93

[Text] The Jammu and Kashmir Government has ordered a judicial inquiry into the Sopor incident on the 6th of this month. The inquiry will be conducted by a sitting high court judge. A state government spokesman said that the judicial inquiry was ordered to ascertain the fact as varying versions, with some highly exaggerating the incident, have been published. It has also been decided to place the commandant of the BSF [Border Security Force] unit and five constables under suspension. In a BSF court of inquiry, they were found prima facie suspected of having committed excesses. The inquiry was ordered after the visit of the director general of BSF, Mr. T. Anantachari, to Sopor. Earlier, BSF had suspended one subinspector and two assistant subinspectors. All cases registered will be inquired by the CBI [Central Bureau of Investigation]. In the Sopor incident, 42 persons, including a BSF jawan [personnel], were killed and a number of houses were gutted in the exchange of fire between the security forces and the militants.

Sri Lankan President in India for Buddhist Ceremony

BK1401113093 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 14 Jan 93

[Excerpt] President Ranasinghe Premadasa and Madame Hema Premadasa arrived at the Patna Airport in the Bihar state to participate in the unveiling ceremony of the ranvatta and ranvihana [railings and canopy] constructed around the Sri Mahabodhi [Buddhist temple] in Buddha Gaya, India. The president and Madame Hema Premadasa were received at the airport by the governor of the Bihar state, Mohammad Shafi Qureshi, and a representative gathering. The president and Madame Premadasa then traveled in a special Indian Air Force helicopter to the Gaya Airport. He was given a red-carpet welcome by the district magistrate, Madam Rajbala (Yarna), and the district commissioner, M.S. Madhavan, and the minister of housing and construction [of Sri Lanka], Sirisena Cooray. [passage omitted]

119 Punjab 'Extremists' Lay Down Arms

BK1401132493 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 14 Jan 93

[Text] In Punjab, 119 extremists, including the self-styled deputy chief of the so-called KLF [Khalistan Liberation Force], laid down their arms to join the mainstream at (Doburji) in Amritsar District. They also handed over a large quantity of arms and ammunition to the police. The state police chief, Mr. K.P.S. Gill, told our Amritsar correspondent that the surrendered persons belonged to five police districts of the border range.

Work Begins on PRC-Aided Steel Plant

BK1501094893 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 15 Jan 93

[Text] The minister of state for steel, Mr. Santosh Mohan Dev, today laid the foundation stone of a 500,000-ton capacity steel plant near Dobri in Cuttack District of Orissa this morning. The state chief minsiter, Mr. Biju Patnaik, presided over the function and the Chinese ambassador, Mr. Cheng Ruisheng, was the chief guest. Major partners in this two-phase project are NRI [Nonresident Indian]-owned Mideast India, MESCO; and the Metallurgical Import and Export Corporation of China, besides the government of Orissa.

Commentary Reviews Trade Ties With China

BK1401141893 Delhi All India Radio General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 14 Jan 93

[Commentary by Journalist Bhishma Pal]

[Text] India would export 13 to 18 lakh tons of iron ore to China during current year under the Sino-Indian trade protocol. According to official sources in New Delhi, the actual exports are likely to exceed this target. Other major commodities that India would be exporting to China would be mineral ores, soybean (?deoiled) cakes, tobacco, chemicals, engineering products, and pharmaceuticals. India expects to import raw silk and silk yarn, pulses, mercury, coking coal, chemicals and petroleum products from China. The trade protocol was signed last week at Beijing by the minister of state for commerce, Mr. P.J. Kurien, who led the Indian delegation to the fourth session of the India-China joint group on economic cooperation, trade, and science and technology; and the Chinese foreign trade minister, Mr. Li Lanqing, who was the cochairman of the session from the Chinese side. Both sides also agreed on the need to identify specific technologies for transfer between the two countries as well as jointly to third countries. Greater attention should be focused on the development of consultancy services for undertaking projects on a turnkey basis as well as through exchange of engineers.

The two sides agreed to further strengthen the bilateral trade relations through joint market surveys to identify goods and commodities which can help to increase the trade volume, to undertake trade promotion measures such as organizing of exhibitions and trade fairs in each other's country, exchange of trade delegations, and the establishment of representative offices in each other's country.

Indian exports to China during the year 1991-92 had increased to rupees 1,162 million from rupees 327 million in the preceding year. The trend is promising to be even better this year. During the first six months of the year, the exports have been of the order of rupees 1,200 million, which is more than the total exports of the year 1991-92. Since resumption of trade with China in 1978, the balance of trade has always been in favor of China, shifting in favor of India for the first time in 1992.

During discussions, Mr. Li Lanqing expressed his confidence that the bilateral trade with India could jump 10 times to $3 billion in the near future. Similar sentiments were expressed by the Chinese vice president. He said that the Chinese Government would take all possible steps to raise India-China trade to unprecedented heights. Both sides agreed that definite scope exists for such cooperation in areas of iron ore, mining, railways, electrical power, communication, iron and steel processing, computer software development, and technology for paper making. It was agreed that each side would instruct the departments or companies to work out developing of such projects. Both sides also agreed to participate in tenders for projects in either countries to be financed by the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank, or other international financial organizations. Both sides have agreed to make further efforts to explore the possibilities of establishing joint ventures and jointly contracting projects in third countries.

The status of Sino-Indian border trade which resumed on 15 July 1992 was reviewed and both sides agreed in principle to the extension of the trade to the other points

on the Sino-Indian border. The officials of the two sides are expected to meet soon to discuss the possibility of starting border trade in Sikkim and Himachal Pradesh. There is a lot of scope for increased economic cooperation between the two countries as the current level of trade does not reflect the large population covered by the two countries. While most of China's exports have been to the United States and European countries, India is now a very important trade partner in China's new trade plan.

Finance Minister Proposes Power Sector Reforms

BK1401104793 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 9 Jan 93 p 15

[Text] The Finance Minister, Dr Manmohan Singh, has proposed a three-year structural reforms programme for the power sector to prevent its drift towards total disaster.

Inaugurating a two-day conference of the State Power Ministers here on Friday, Dr Singh said, "I feel the time has come not to mince words. Unless we recognise the seriousness of the crisis in the power sector, we will not be able to take hard decisions needed to correct the situation." If the Governments failed to take corrective action now, the process of decline would start. It would be difficult to reverse it, thereby spelling the "end of our hopes of a resurgent economy".

He suggested that the conference should constitute a group of ministers with a mandate to formulate an action plan for the power sector, which could later be placed before the National Development Council for final decision.

The reforms programme should include measures for improving the power generation and transmission efficiency, the working of state electricity boards (SEBs), recovery of electricity bills, reduction in power thefts, rationalising power tariff and expediting setting up of projects.

Referring to subsidised supply of power to farmers and domestic consumers, he acknowledged the need for an element of subsidy to some consumers. It should, however, be carefully targetted and kept within the manageable limits. He said that the minimum tariff for agriculture sector should be 60 paise per unit of power, against 50 paise agreed last year by the Conference of State Power Ministers. While some States implemented this decision, others actually "moved in the opposite direction". There was no justification for many States charging as low as 10 or 20 paise. Referring to a tariff of 40 paise for the first 200 units of power for domestic consumers in Delhi, he underscored the need for hiking the tariff for residential areas. He, however, admitted that this sector requires some cross-subsidy.

He also found fault with the Centre's deduction scheme of SEB overdues to national power utilities from the Central plan assistance. It, in fact, converted current dues into a sort of medium-term loan, which was not good enough. It created complacency about the real problem which was perhaps counter-productive.

Dr Singh said that the SEBs were running in financially unviable manners. Against the statutory return of 3 per cent on capital, SEBs achieved a negative return of 14 per cent in 1991-92. SEB's cummulative losses in the current financial year were estimated at Rs [rupees] 5846 crore. SEBs were, thus, not only unable to pay for power supplies to national power utilities but were also unable to finance expansion and modernisation schemes.

He said that with the growing deterioration of financial condition of power sector, international financial institutions and other lenders were extremely reluctant to extend credit.

Referring to the vast scope for improving the plant load factor (PLF) of thermal power stations, he said that a 4 per cent improvement in PLF could help the country save Rs 12,000 crore investment on creation of additional power generation capacity. He also advised SEBs to fix specific targets for creation of private sector power generation capacity in each State and help speedy implementation of such projects.

Earlier, Mr Kalpnath Rai Minister of State for Power, said that if all SEBs followed the no-loss-no-profit situation, there would be an additional generation of about Rs 5000 crore per year and this could be used for capital investment. He pointed out that the implementation of decision to fix minimum tariff of 50 paise a unit for the farm sector would generate an additional revenue of Rs 2000 crore per year.

He urged the State Governments to merge electricity duty with tariff and allow SEBs to retain it for fresh capacity addition. He urged the participants to draw up an agreed plan of action to enable SELs to earn the statutory rate of return of three per cent on capital.

Country's Population Rises to Over 838 Million

BK1501100093 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1615 GMT 14 Jan 93

[Text] Latest data show that India's total population now is 838,583,988. This was indicated by the final population data of the 1991 census or the census abstract data released in New Delhi today. Doordarshan correspondent Rudranath Sanyal has the details.

[Begin recording] [Sanyal] Information data released by the union minister of state for home, Mr. M.M. Jacob, indicates that India's population is nearly 2,000,000 more than what was found in the provisional census figures released last year. Another highlight of this final data is that for the first time census figures down to the village and ward levels have been made available on a nationwide computer network. The deputy chairman of the Planning Commission, Mr. Pranab Mukherjee, fed

the data into the National Informatics Center's [NIC's] computer network today with the push of a button.

[Mukherjee] With the eighth five-year plan in operation, I am confident the Planning Commission and other ministries of the government would surely benefit from the PCA computerization.

[Sanyal] Through NIC's mainframe computer in Delhi, the data bank has been linked to nearly 5,000 computer terminals across the country. This was possible with the help of satellite. Besides population figures, the census abstract data has details like number of households, number of literates, and population of scheduled castes and scheduled tribes. NIC has also drawn up plans for data broadcasts with the help of small satellite earth stations. [end recording]

Iran

Velayati on Iraq Raid, Chemical Weapons Convention

LD1401174093 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 14 Jan 93

[Text] Foreign Minister Velayati, reacting to the attacks by three Western countries on Iraq, said today: It seems that the big powers who have the power of veto at the Security Council use the Security Council's resolutions as an excuse [to act] in accordance with their interests. He criticized the selective approach to Security Council resolutions. In that connection he referred to the non-implementation of Security Council resolutions regarding the crimes in Palestine by the Zionists and the Serbs in Bosnia-Hercegovina.

Mr Velayati, who returned from Poland, Austria, Albania and France this afternoon, said in an interview with our correspondent: Issues of mutual interest and regional and international issues were discussed in those countries and the need to make more serious decisions against the Serbs was particularly stressed. He added: We discussed ways of helping the oppressed people of Bosnia-Hercegovina with the Polish, Austrian, Albanian, and French authorities.

Referring to the signing in Paris of the new convention on the prohibition of the production and proliferation of chemical weapons, he expressed the hope that, as in the past, the implementation of the clauses of the convention will not be forgotten. He was asked: While the industrialized countries who have signed the convention are the major producers of chemical weapons what guarantee is there for the correct implementation of the convention? He replied: Only close supervision by the international community can guarantee the correct implementation of the convention.

Stressing that since World War II Iran has been the biggest victim of chemical weapons in the world, he expressed the hope that, with greater supervision, the international community will prevent the recent convention on the prohibition of the production and proliferation of chemical weapons from being forgotten.

West's Strikes on Iraq Dismissed as 'Useless'

LD1401152293 Tehran IRNA in English 1455 GMT 14 Jan 93

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 14, IRNA—Head of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution of Iraq (SAIRI) Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammad Baqir Hakim said here Thursday [14 January] that the U.S.-led allied forces strikes on Iraq Wednesday night were useless because the target of these attacks is only the Iraqi nation.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Hakim said these operations would not resolve the real problems in Iraq. On the contrary, he added, the strikes would overshadow the internal problems of the Iraqi regime and deviate public opinion.

"This is what Saddam Husayn wants," he said adding that Saddam poses a serious danger on the region. He noted that under the current circumstances Americans do not intend to overthrow "the Arab governments of the region." However, Washington's long-term policy in the region is to dominate it under the "new world order", using the assistance of the United Nations.

Saddam is pushing Iraq towards disintegration, therefore, the best solution is to overthrow him through unity and cooperation of the Iraqi popular forces and hold elections for a new government, Hakim added.

Commentary Criticizes Attack on Iraq

NC1401213493 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Arabic 1750 GMT 14 Jan 93

[Station commentary]

[Text] The bells of war have rung once again in the Persian Gulf and the roaring sound of bombers has once again disturbed this sensitive and oil-rich region. Although events in Iraq in the past two weeks—particularly in its southern region—portended that new developments were about to happen, the speed with which these developments took place was surprising. According to U.S. and British sources at least 100 fighters and bombers took part in yesterday's air raids against areas in southern Iraq. The Americans say that the air bombardment operations targeted Iraqi missile launchers and radar sites. Naturally, the Western coalition aircraft have broken the sound barrier over Kuwait and Iraq at least twice, but just one week ago nobody expected these provocative flights to turn into a serious and wide-scale strike.

The behind-the-scene talks held following the strike indicate that Iraq is giving in, at least within the framework of the United Nations, to the U.S. and West's conditions. Iraq's UN delegate Nizar Hamdun has described the strike as an uncivilized act; Iraq's ambassador in Tokyo has said that Iraq will discipline the

aggressors. Following the raids, Saddam Husayn appeared for 10 minutes on Iraqi television wearing his military uniform and called on the Iraqi people to defend themselves against what he called the criminals.

Regardless of the motives of the Iraqi Government and the Western powers, it cannot be ignored that the fire is once again being lit in the region, and at a time when it is passing through an extremely delicate stage. In occupied Palestine, the world public has for weeks been witnessing a crime against humanity and international laws and norms committed by the Zionist occupation authorities; namely, the deportation of more than 400 Palestinians from their homes without any proven guilt. These innocent people are left in the open in the freezing cold, starvation, and diseases on Lebanon's southern arid hills. During the past week, the world in general, and the Islamic world in particular, expected those defending human rights to hasten to take the necessary measures to force Tel Aviv to take these innocent deportees back home. But the world public was astonished to see once again how the Zionist entity is disregarding international laws. It has been proven that this entity, relying on Western backing, does not change its policies and does not pay the slightest attention to the United Nations or its rules. The world was expecting the deportees to be returned to their territory before any new international development took place.

Another issue that further increased the sensitivity of the current stage is the tragic circumstances facing hundreds of thousands of Muslims in Bosnia-Hercegovina, victims of a horrible genocide at the hands of the criminal Serbs. Here, too, the world public expected the Western states that are raising the banners of defending the new world order to restore the usurped rights of the people of Bosnia-Hercegovina and end the criminal acts carried out by the bestial Serbs against the Muslims there.

We cannot in these few lines review what is happening in Somalia, Karabakh, and several other world regions, where many people, particularly Muslims, are falling victim to the process of safeguarding the new world order. However, what happened yesterday in southern Iraq cannot be ignored. These events have shown once again that the West has accepted this spiteful principle in its new world order; namely, silence at the Zionist crimes. Even the blast of the huge laser bombs, which the West is dropping on southern Iraq, is not capable of opening its ears to the cries of hundreds of thousands of innocent Palestinians suffering from the barbaric Zionist crimes. Naturally, nobody could approve of the provocative acts that took place in Iraq in the past few days. The peoples in the entire region, including the Kuwaiti, Iraqi, and other peoples in the Persian Gulf region, wish to have peace, calm, stability, and fraternity. But past experience has proven, unfortunately, what happened and is happening; namely, that these peoples have always been victims of these provocative and miscalculated policies. The positions of Islamic Iran, in its capacity as the biggest country in the region, have always revealed its rejection of any policy that endangers security and peace in the region. Our country will exert efforts so that the ill-omen bird of war will not return to the region once again.

President Terms Allied Air Raids 'Shameful Act'

LD1401225193 Tehran IRNA in English 1331 GMT 14 Jan 93

[Text] Esfahan, Jan. 14, IRNA—President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani on Thursday [14 January] termed the air raids on Iraq by the allied jet fighters yesterday as a "shameful act."

"If the relationship between the people and government of Iraq had been like the situation prevailing in Iran, neither the U.S. nor other western countries would ever have thought of attacking that country," the president said.

President Rafsanjani, who is here on an inspection tour of the province, made the remarks in an speech to a large group of people in this historical city. "When a nation and a system of government are united no enemy can ever dare have bad intentions against them...the Iraqi regime's grave mistake was that it had paid no attention to and turned its back to its people," he said.

Elsewhere in his speech, Hojjat ol-Eslam Rafsanjani said the massive presence of the Iranian people on the scenes of the revolution would disappoint and arouse concern among the enemies of the Islamic revolution. A sincere relationship between people and officials of the Islamic Republic would serve to prevent the enemies of revolution from having a covetous eye on the country.

Velayati Interviewed on Return From European Tour

LD1501155093 Tehran IRIB Television Second Program Network in English 1415 GMT 15 Jan 93

[Text] Iran's Foreign Minister, Mr. Velayati returned to Tehran yesterday from a tour to four European countries which took him to Poland, Austria, Albania, and France. Upon his arrival at Mehrabad airport, Mr. Velayati had an interview with our correspondent.

[Begin recording] [Correspondent] Mr. Velayati, would you please explain the outcomes of your recent trip to the four European countries and do you think is there any hope toward ending the ethnic war in Bosnia and Hercegovina?

[Velayati] I have paid an official visit to three countries, Poland, Austria, and Albania. The main purpose of these trips was strengthening of bilateral relations between Iran and all these three countries.

Apart from the bilateral relation, we have talked about the question of Bosnia and Hercegovina. The position of Iran and all these countries more or less are very close. Specifically Austria and Albania have the same position

as we do. We are against the atrocity which has committed by Serbs against the Muslim and Croats in Bosnia and Hercegovina. We have decided to continue our consultation and also all cooperation in the international arena and also sending relief and aids for people of Bosnia and Hercegovina, humanitarian aid for these people who have been suffering a lot during that few months because of this aggression of Serbs.

[Correspondent] Would you state that how the banning of such chemical weapons treaty might impress the world's peace?

[Velayati] You know this is the second treaty which has been signed by the majority of countries which are members of the United Nations in this century. The first one was signed in 1925 but on the base of the experiences that we have had during the Second World War and also the imposed war, I mean the war which has been imposed on us by Iraq, we have witnessed the use of chemical weapons in these wars specifically against Iran. Iran is the first and important victim of the use of chemical weapon after the Second World War and still thousands of our people are suffering from the effect of the use of chemical weapons. And we have been very active in the commission of disarmament in Geneva during last about 10 years and let us say the Islamic Republic of Iran has been one of the founders of the draft of the treaty and that is quite natural if we sign it. And this is a hope that under the supervision of the international community and organization, this treaty which is more comprehensive than the 1925 treaty will be fulfilled by all countries which have either signed it or in the future are going to join others and sign this treaty. [end recording]

Prohibition of Chemical Weapons Welcomed

LD1401223793 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1930 GMT 14 Jan 93

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Paying attention to the horrible dimension of deployment of these weapons whose manufacture does not really need a very complicated technology the Islamic Republic of Iran has so far made many attempts to sign international agreements to prevent deployment and production of such weapons.

Unfortunately the Western states which in their vast propaganda announced their serious opposition to the production of these weapons in practice place main raw materials for the production of these weapons at the disposal of the buyers under agreements related to production of fertilizers, detergents, and insecticide.

Certainly signing of the agreement related to the control of sale and purchase as well as production of chemical weapons is a positive step.

More important than that is inspection and control by a special international council which can supervise destruction of the existing weapons and prevent probable production of such weapons in the future.

Until before the Iran-Iraq war the world public opinion knew little about the consequences of these weapons. But after the Iraqi regime used these Western-gifted chemical weapons against the Iranian soldiers in a vast level, the world people became somehow acquainted with the dangers and the horrible consequences of deployment of such weapons, through films and reports filed on the martyrs and injured of these criminal acts.

At any rate signing of the Paris convention related to the destruction of chemical weapons by the majority of the world countries indicates the firm will and the international tendency for preventing mass killing by deadly chemical weapons.

Biological weapons are no exception. With the destruction of chemical weapons within the next ten years it is expected that with the termination of the Cold War period the world of humanity will get rid of this serious threat.

And it is in fact the aspirational will of the civilized man of today that the mass destruction weapons of any kind and title should be destroyed so that humanity can live in a community full of respect for others rights, peace and security for all.

President Addresses Clergy on Responsibilities

LD1401210293 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1530 GMT 14 Jan 93

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] The president addressed the Friday prayer leaders, theological school teachers, and the clergy from Esfehan Province today. He spoke about the grave and dangerous responsibilities of the clergy in the present era. He said: The clergy are presently facing a difficult test. It is up to us now, and no excuse will be accepted if we fail to use the opportunity.

Pointing out the fact that the country has passed through its economic, political and social difficulties, the president turned to the Western cultural onslaught, and said our main responsibility is cultural and the maintenance of the people's morale. It is up to the clergy to prepare the grounds and to maintain the purity of people's faith and the fundamental issues.

President Attends Esfahan Council Session

NC1501072393 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0430 GMT 15 Jan 93

[Telephone report by an unidentified correspondent from Esfahan—recorded]

[Text] Continuing his visit to Esfahan, our President Hashemi-Rafsanjani carried out a six-hour tour of the

exhibition of industrial, mining, and agricultural products before attending the province's Administrative Council session in the Esfahan Governorate last night.

The session was also attended by Ayatollah Taheri, representative of the vice regency of the Supreme Jurisconsult and Esfahan Friday imam; the Esfahan governor general; the ministers of interior, mines and metals, economy and finance, roads and transport, agriculture, industries, health, and construction jihad; the vice president for executive affairs; Esfahan Province people's deputies at the Majles; and executive province officials.

The Esfahan governor general discussed the province, saying: Esfahan is known worldwide. With its many capabilities in the various production sectors and its high manpower capability, this province has been successful in many fields; as an example we can refer to agricultural products and say that this province ranks first for harvest per hectare.

President Hashemi-Rafsanjani described Esfahan as a powerful and successful province: This does not mean you do not have problems. It is our duty to solve your problems in the second [Five-Year] Plan, because investing in Esfahan benefits the country. In the second plan we will pay considerable attention to the province's water problems, the most important of which is the third phase of the Kuhrang Tunnel. We have solved many of our country's infrastructural problems.

The president referred to the single rate of foreign exchange and said: This policy will see a great development. Its implementation will aim to create more jobs and strengthen domestic production. Tariffs will be placed on imports. All these are steps to protect domestic industries and production. Domestic industries too should improve the quality of their products and not be problematic.

President Hashemi-Rafsanjani then referred to the role played by enemy plots: Each year we use 1.5 percent of our gross national product for military purposes. And they accuse us of wanting to become a regional superpower. We host over 3 million refugees. And they accuse us of being anti-human rights. They do not like what we do. We should not pick quarrels or be divisive so that we can achieve something.

[In a related report, Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian at 0330 GMT on 15 Jan adds the following: "At the Esfahan Administrative Council session last night, President Hashemi-Rafsanjani said he was satisfied with the country's economic progress. He said: The economy has passed its difficult and sensitive phases and the outlook inspires hope.

["He said the primary objectives of the country's second Five-Year Plan are to complete projects: These will save the country's economy and strengthen domestic production.

["The president said the country's investments in the second plan are less than those in the first. Referring to the favorable condition of domestic industries, Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: Many of the country's domestic industrial products are being sold in world markets and the country's foreign liabilities in the current year have fallen by around $5 billion. These liabilities will reach their lowest in the next three years.

["The president said that one of the positive characteristics in the country today is the existence of good managers in the various fields: The government has competent and pious managers, but some try to question the management force because of some managers' faults. This is a great injustice to the government.

["President Hashemi-Rafsanjani spoke about the economy in Esfahan province: This province is among the country's powerful and successful areas; its water shortage, environmental, and transport problems can be solved. The president stressed that in the second plan, the government will try to allocate more to overcome the water shortage problem in these areas."]

Tapped Line Said To Reveal Deal on Warheads

TA1501134793 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT (LESHABAT supplement) in Hebrew 15 Jan 93 pp 12, 13

["Disclosure" by Paris correspondent Shlomo Papierblatt]

[Excerpts] "So what, your pilots are already drilling the bombing of the nuclear center in Esfahan? I hope that when it happens reactions throughout the world will be less severe than those following the bombing of the Iraqi nuclear reactor. After all, in the end everybody agreed that you did the right thing."

I heard these words this week from an experienced French commentator and an expert on international security affairs during a background talk about Iran's efforts to attain a military nuclear ability. A short time earlier, I had placed on his desk in an office overlooking Rue de Rivoli, not far from the Tuilleries Gardens, an extraordinary document which had been attained by YEDI'OT AHARONOT: Proof that Tehran has indeed acquired nuclear warheads from one of the Muslim republics of the former Soviet Union, clear-cut proof of the speculations and fears which had been appearing in the West. [passage omitted]

Recently we obtained a recording done by a European secret service of a phone call between two Iranian diplomats, one stationed in Geneva and the other at the Foreign Ministry in Tehran. Such calls are made (and wiretapped...) every day. Most of them do not contain any interesting material because experienced speakers are careful not to divulge any information. But, as anybody dealing with field security knows, a "slip" ultimately occurs and things get out in the open.

The phone call disclosed here took place in early December 1992. The speaker on the Iranian side of the line was 'Abdolrahmani, the Iranian Foreign Ministry official in charge of relations with the Central Asian republics of the former Soviet Union. In his office in Switzerland was Tabataba'i Kia, the second in command in the Iranian delegation to the UN institutions and the international organizations in Geneva. Officially, he is described as the deputy of Sirus Nasiri, the head of the delegation.

What follows is a transcript of the phone call—YEDI'OT AHARONOT possesses the full recording—with short abridgements irrelevant to the main subject. Kia: Hello, good morning.
'Abdolrahmani: Good morning.
Kia: How are you?
'Abdolrahmani: Fine, thank you.
Kia: Mr. 'Abdolrahmani?
'Abdolrahmani: Yes.
Kia: How are you?
'Abdolrahmani: With whom do I have the honor of speaking?
Kia: Kia...Tabataba'i.
'Abdolrahmani: Ah! How are you? I am sorry I did not recognize your voice....
Kia: Listen, my dear 'Abdolrahmani, we have received something here; a report about Nakhichevan and the area, an issue you apparently know very well.
'Abdolrahmani: Not so well....
Kia: Yes, listen, we did some work here about Kazakhstan. I worked on it and I held a few meetings here, the results of which I will send you by telex. What I want to ask you is that if you have a response to send it to me as soon as possible.
'Abdolrahmani: When are you sending me a telex?
Kia: I will try to do it this afternoon, local time, so that you may have it on your desk tomorrow morning.
'Abdolrahmani: Fine. But could I ask you to send me the material by fax?
Kia: Why not?
'Abdolrahmani: Let me give you the number. Are you writing it down? 59 42 75.
Kia: Ah... Our department had that number, but it was constantly busy. Now I understand.
'Abdolrahmani: Good, please write it down. I will give you a new number which will always be free for you: 48 22 76.
Kia: You know, this issue made a lot of noise here (in the West).
'Abdolrahmani: What issue?
Kia: You know, the guys who wanted to buy several warheads.
'Abdolrahmani (laughing heartily): Yes, yes, it made a lot of noise.
Kia: Yes, it was in the front pages, but now matters have calmed down. I am very glad. From what I understood then, the guys completed their mission in the best possible way.
'Abdolrahmani: Yes, yes.
Kia: How many did they buy exactly, my dear 'Abdolrahmani?
'Abdolrahmani: Four.
Kia: Yes, that is what I was told. Have they already arrived?
'Abdolrahmani: Not yet.
Kia: Ah.... I see. Why is that?
'Abdolrahmani: I do not know. It got stuck.
Kia: What do you mean? Did it get stuck on the way out or on the way in? Is there any other problem?
'Abdolrahmani: Yes, it has to do with transportation. There is a technical problem.
Kia: How much did it cost us?
'Abdolrahmani: I do not know. Some other guy arranged the issue of the payment.
Kia: I would like to ask you something.... Who was the liaison man? Was it one of ours or somebody...how should I put it...you know, the guys who used to work at the time with Hajj Mohsen Rafij [name as published] (President Rafsanjani's brother-in-law, a leading radical and leader of the "oppressed ones" who pursue an extremist and isolationist policy—author's note)?
'Abdolrahmani: Yes, one of them did it.
Kia: Was it one of Torkan's men (Torkan is the Iranian defense minister—author's note)?
'Abdolrahmani: Yes.
Kia: Anybody I know?
'Abdolrahmani: I do not think so. I do not know him at all.
Kia: Aha! It was lucky that things got sorted out in the end.
'Abdolrahmani: Yes, there have been no problems so far.
Kia: How do we go on from here? What is my role?
'Abdolrahmani: I do not know if I can tell you on the phone.
Kia: Use code language. I will understand.
'Abdolrahmani: I would rather speak on the other line.
Kia: Fine, I will call you on the 75 line right away.
'Abdolrahmani: See you soon.... [passage omitted]

IRGC Head on Exchanges With PRC, DPRK

LD1401180193 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1530 GMT 14 Jan 93

[Text] Major General Mohsen Reza'i, the commander of the Islamic Republic Guards Corps [IRGC], who recently visited China and North Korea, today took part in an interview with our correspondent and said: The Islamic Republic of Iran will engage in the exchange of defense expertise with those countries and added that those exchanges are aimed at achieving global peace and security.

He further said: In our talks with the Chinese and North Korean officials, we assessed the most significant international developments and the Islamic Republic of Iran's extensive and friendly relations with those two countries. Those countries believe that world powers take advantage of world developments in order to engage in adventurism.

He also said that during the course of his visit to those two countries he inspected military headquarters and watched military maneuvers in China and North Korea and became familiar with their combat capability.

Khamene'i Address on Expectations on Judiciary

LD1301170693 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1101 GMT 13 Jan 93

[Address by Ayatollah 'Ali Hoseyni Khamene'i at meeting with judicial officials in Tehran on 13 January—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. I would like to welcome you, honorable gentlemen, dear brothers with positions of responsibility in one of the most essential departments in the country. [passage omitted]

In an Islamic society, the judicial system has two tasks. That is, implementation of divine laws, and establishment of justice. It is obvious that the judicial branch establishes justice through the law. [passage omitted] I once said that an impeccable judicial system will create sound systems in other departments. For if the other departments were to become corrupt, they would be dealt with by the judicial system. An impeccable judicial system will make the government impeccable too. It makes every individual in society impeccable. It transforms a badly behaving individual into a law abiding person. God forbid, an unhealthy judicial system would eventually corrupt other departments. Some individuals might remain impeccable here and there, but the nature of affairs will change them.

Another point I will make is that in the judiciary of the Islamic Republic of Iran, special consideration should be given to the meek. [passage omitted] The ethos of the judiciary must be based on protecting the meek. In various periods, in various countries, judiciaries have had a different ethos, based on protecting the aristocracy. Who dared challenge those Europeans who claim to have independent judiciaries? They make so many films, false films, which are also shown on our television, about the judicial process in European countries purpoting to show that the judges are absolutely fair. [passage omitted]

I call on the judiciary—it is not a recommendation, I expect this of the judiciary—do not let those who have been wounded by the revolution, those who are enemies of the revolution, those who, if they had the slightest chance, would use it to deal blows to the revolution, do not let them tear to shreds what the revolution has woven.

This is the ethos of the Islamic system and Islamic justice. Thank God, as it was pointed out and I also agree, there are many pious, brave, and revolutionary judges in our judicial system. Not only those who joined after the revolution. Also before the revolution, we knew, and I did know—personally and otherwise—many honorable, ethically brave, and spotless judges who worked in the judicial system. And this took place while the judicial system of the satanic period was run by wrong policy, as well as ugly and unjust management. The people who were at the head of the judiciary had no sense of Islamic justice nor had they any correct human feelings. [passage omitted] Despite the existence of such evil and corrupt management there were many pious, just, and brave judges. Of course some have passed away, some have possibly retired and some continue to be in the judiciary, thank God. And there are also those who joined this establishment after the revolution.

Our judiciary is such that there is no shortage of worthy people. There are many good people in this establishment. And thank God, there is also law. The leadership of this establishment today, with God's grace, is a proper one, and one feels it to be according to God's pleasure. A learned, distinguished person, a jurisconsult, a victim of the path of revolution and the days of the movement, beaten in the unjust system, thirsty for and a lover of justice, he is today at the head of this establishment. We have everything.

Today is the day that the judiciary of the Islamic Republic should be an establishment for justice in the true meaning of the word. We should not allow any delay. Breaches inside the establishment must be taken seriously. A breach inside the judicial establishment, in my view, is a double one. If, God forbid, a judge is bad, he will commit an offense and will make others offend. This is different from those who only commit mistakes themselves. There is a difference.

An issue that must be recognized in the judiciary is that Islamic ideas must be revived properly. Today in the world those liars have taken up the flag of human rights. The deceitful have hidden themselves under these flags and slogans. Human rights can be achieved with Islamic justice and laws. In the judiciary, human rights must be the focus of full attention, not with the deceitful measures and standards which the West is presenting today, but with Islamic standards.

It is possible that here and there in our society those things which have been really recognized by Islam as constituting human rights are being violated by certain people or organs. The judicial branch should defend human rights; the matter should be pursued. Islam has also set down certain rights for offenders; for instance, no one has the right to insult a person who is due to be executed. Why should he be insulted? His punishment is that he will be executed. Insult becomes an injustice in this case; it usurps the rights of the condemned. [passage omitted]

We hope God will grant you success in carrying out these duties in line with the many steps that have already been taken. The officials of the country, the government organs, and the Majles, will, God willing, successfully discharge their responsibilities toward the judicial

branch by backing it and meeting its material needs as much as they can. I beseech God to grant you his blessings. [passage omitted]

Hashemi-Rafsanajani Chairs Antidrug Meeting

LD1301165293 Tehran IRNA in English 1603 GMT 13 Jan 93

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 13, IRNA—The anti-drug campaign headquarters here today called on the judicial and executive bodies to seriously follow up the basic and urgent plans on campaign against drug trafficking.

The headquarters in its meeting chaired by President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, heard a report on the despatch of drug addicts and traffickers to Farour Island in the Persian Gulf.

The president termed the plan as "positive and desirable", and approved related funds.

Commander of the disciplinary forces, Reza Seyfollahi, briefed the meeting on the anti-drug activities, including the seizure of 13 tons of narcotics and arrest of over 22,000 professional drug traffickers and addicts over the past three months.

Furthermore the meeting approved necessary funds for closure of the eastern borders to the drug traffickers, as well as boosting the strength of the disciplinary forces and the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC) in the eastern parts of the country.

The participants also reviewed latest local and foreign developments concerning the drug campaign as well as the report of the United Nations under-secretary general on the effective and fruitful measures of the Islamic Republic against drug trafficking and addiction.

Official on Plan for 'Dissolution' of Ministries

NC1501081793 Tehran HAMSHAHRI in Persian 2 Jan 93 p 1

[Text] Economic desk—A plan to build a "central hall" in one of the 20 districts of the Tehran Municipality is being implemented. When it is, all the affairs of Tehran's citizens will be concentrated in one area and in one well-equipped building; people need no longer travel far for administrative purposes.

Vice President Engineer Seyyed Mansur Razavi, who is also secretary general of the Administrative and Employment Affairs Organization [AEAO], said the foregoing. Speaking at the concluding meeting of the fifth session on strategic management in Ramsar, Engineer Razavi added: The decision to set up administrative centers in the big cities has been made and one such project has been completed in Shiraz.

The vice president listed the various activities of the AEAO and said that over 30 administrative reform projects are being studied or implemented. He said that on the president's orders, these projects and the plan to move administrative centers to provinces and omit red tape and bureaucracy should be finalized and implementation started by Shahrivar [month beginning 23 August 1993].

Engineer Razavi said: Our expert and comprehensive studies have shown that 50 percent of the duties of the Ministry of Reconstruction Jihad, 45 percent of the duties of the Agriculture Ministry, and many of the duties of the Ministries [as published] of Industry can be assigned to the private sector. Four ministries and 25 state organizations are said to be superfluous and their gradual dissolution is being studied.

Pakistan

U.S. 'Pivotal Role' in PPP, Government Link Viewed

BK1401092793 Karachi DAWN in English 14 Jan 93 p 12

[Text] Lahore, Jan 13—The United States played a pivotal role in bringing the PPP [Pakistan People's Party] close to the present government and in the election of Ms Benazir Bhutto as the chairperson of National Assembly's Standing Committee for Foreign Relations.

This was stated by Amir Jamaat-i-Islami, Senator Qazi Hussain Ahmed here Wednesday [13 January], while talking to DAWN at his Mansoora office.

He said bringing the PPP closer to Mr Nawaz Sharif was now the policy of the United States and it wanted to use them to fight "fundamentalism" in Pakistan.

If the religious parties tried to form a united front, the PPP and the Government would, under the American dictates, jointly resist the bid but in case the religious parties failed to iron out their differences the PPP and the present Government would be promoted by the Americans as an alternative to each other, he emphasised.

Both these forces in the Assembly have surrendered before the United States and their agreement to pursue a similar foreign policy despite their apparent differences on other issues vindicated his assertion, he said.

However, he warned that any Government which worked under the U.S. dictates would not last longer and it would have to vacate the seat for those elements who could motivate the nation.

Qazi Hussain Ahmed said the latest gesture of the rulers of electing Ms Bhutto as chairperson of the Foreign Relations Committee was also aimed at "exposing the PPP" and at the same time acquring its support to be able to toe the American line without any resistance.

The Jamaat Chief said the extent to which the PPP and the present government depended on the American support could be determined from the similarities in their policies on Kashmir, the nuclear programme and

Afghanistan. All these policies had been "tailored" to suit the American designs and interests, he alleged.

He said while the government planned to roll back its nuclear programme to the 1989 level the national interest demanded that Pakistan should have a nuclear deterrent for the sake of its defence.

He alleged that the "wholescale" privatisation including that of sensitive institutions like the Pakistan Telecommunications Corporation (PTC) was being done under "American pressure." The rulers were alleged to be handing over the state-owned units to their favourites at throw away prices. In fact, he said, the entire country was being handed over to the NGOs [Nongovernmental Organizations].

Qazi Hussain pointed out that the designs of the present rulers were exposed the day the Minister for Industries said at the floor of the Assembly that even Israeli entrepeneurs were welcomed to invest in Pakistan.

The Jamaat Chief did not find any difference between the Government and PPP.

In reply to a question he said that the present government has no justification to stay in power. He said that he would provide some alternative leadership within the next "few months". He stressed that once the Jamaat was in a position to remove the present rulers and at the same time provide an alternative leadership, it would not waste even a single moment in dislodging the government.

Asking the entire nation to stand up against American dictates, he said the Pakistani nation should declare in clear terms that it did not want to live on US conditions.

He said in order to find the way of resisting the U.S. pressure, the Government should take the nation into confidence and tell the people clearly that America wanted to impose Indian hegemony in the region.

Answering a question about the Sindh operation, Qazi Hussain Ahmed said an operation was regarded only as a way of treatment for momentary relief and if it prolonged for any reason it would create complications.

He said if the Army pulls out of Sindh leaving behind a stable government and a political solution of the situation, the operation carried out hitherto would be regarded as a success, otherwise it would be nothing but a failure.

Answering another question, Qazi Hussain Ahmed said Altaf Hussain could not get himself separated from the MQM [Muhajir Qaumi Movement] and if he did, it would mean the end of the MQM. He said Altaf Hussain's statement to quit politics was just a political statement and he could also make another announcement of reviewing his decision at any time.

"How long would it take him to make the second announcement?" Qazi was asked.

Country Seeks Early Talks With New U.S. Administration

BK1401153693 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 14 Jan 93

[Text] Prime Minister Mohammad Nawaz Sharif presided over a high-level meeting at the Foreign Office in Islamabad today which reviewed the Gulf situation and Pakistan-U.S. relations. Later, a Foreign Office spokesman reaffirmed Pakistan's desire to start talks early with the new U.S. Administration to apprise it of Pakistan's point of view on nuclear nonproliferation, the Pressler Amendment, and regional issues.

Army Chief Receives Visiting Polish Delegation

BK1401154693 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 14 Jan 93

[Text] The Polish trade delegation led by Industry and Trade Minister Niewiarowski called on Army Chief General Abdul Waheed in Rawalpindi today and exchanged views on matters of mutual interest. The delegation is currently visiting Pakistan for talks on a possible sale of Polish T-72 tanks for the Pakistan Army.

UNHCR To Provide Assistance for Afghan Refugees

BK1401145293 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 14 Jan 93

[Text] The United Nations High Commission for Refugees [UNHCR] will provide cash assistance worth over 280 million rupees during the current year as part of its humanitarian relief assistance program for Afghan refugees in Pakistan. Secretary of States and Frontier Regions Division Mr. Diljan Khan and chief of UNHCR in Pakistan Mr. Nicholas Morris signed an agreement to this effect in Islamabad today.

Japanese Concern Over Korean Firm May Affect Relations

BK1401140793 Lahore PAKISTAN in Urdu 12 Jan 93 p 6

[By special correspondent]

[Text] Rawalpindi—The Government of Japan has expressed its readiness to conditionally review the decision on declaring Pakistan a terrorist state. According to very reliable sources, the Japanese Government has expressed deep concern over the growing influence of the South Korean trading company "Daewoo" in Pakistan and warned it will not only affect relations between the two countries, but will also result in the curtailment of future Japanese investment in Pakistan. According to these sources, the Japanese Government termed the increasing predominance of "Daewoo" in Pakistan as contradictory to Japanese business interests and said that such policies of the Pakistani Government will severely affect the existing trade ties between the two

countries. The sources said that the Japanese Government has agreed to review the issues of declaring Pakistan a terrorist state and the withholding of $450 million in aid on the condition that the predominance of "Daewoo" will be restricted.

Editorial Urges Expansion of Naval Force

BK1401122993 Karachi NAWA-I-WAQT in Urdu 30 Dec 93 p 10

[Editorial: "Expansion of the Navy—The Need of the Hour"]

[Text] According to a report, Pakistan Navy's planning experts are examining the possibility of replacing half the number of large warships in the naval fleet, because the United States has refused to extend the term of the lease for eight warships and one supporting ship. According to a BBC report, the lease for one of these ships has already expired, while the one for another ship will expire in 1994.

So far as the strength of our navy is concerned, every government has tried its best to strengthen it in one way or another. But, there is no denying the fact that in view of India's hegemonic ambitions and its past record of aggression, our Navy has not been expanded to the desired level. There still remains a vast scope for its expansion for safeguarding Pakistan's frontiers and maritime zone. India's naval preparedness has reached a point where it now possesses facilities for building not only warships but also submarines. The nuclear submarines acquired from Russia are in addition to these submarines. India, which previously possessed only one aircraft carrier, now has two. Experts have indicated in the past as well that India's naval capability far exceeds its defense requirements and with every passing year it is becoming a force with a total offensive capability. Here, in Pakistan, the programs launched to make our Navy capable of meeting its requirements have been of a very limited nature and even the lease of the warships acquired from the United States a few years ago is being terminated.

In respect of arms supplies and cooperation in the military field, the U.S. record has been very bad; and with the Afghanistan problem having been thrown into cold storage, Pakistan no longer enjoys the status of a frontline state in the eyes of the United States. In these circumstances, Washington's attitude is not utterly surprising. The U.S. Government is even refusing to deliver the F-16 planes, for which payment has already been made by Pakistan. Washington's attitude toward India is very lenient and New Delhi is once again being pampered in the new world order. The Indian naval force in the Indian Ocean undoubtedy poses a serious threat to the littoral states and Pakistan. Despite Pakistan's efforts at the United Nations, India is not ready to have the Indian Ocean declared a zone of peace.

The war in the Gulf has proved that, along with the Air Force, the Navy should also be strengthened to ensure the country's defense. But, we are not able to achieve the desired target in respect of our naval force. Given the manner in which the Indian leadership continues to harbor war frenzy against Pakistan, any negligence toward strengthening the naval defense force can seriously jeopardize our national defense.

Citizens Repatriated From Bangladesh To Live in Punjab

BK1201114093 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1100 GMT 12 Jan 93

[Text] The federal minister for parliamentary affairs, Chaudhary Amir Hussain, assured the National Assembly today that the stranded Pakistanis being repatriated would be settled in 32 districts of the Punjab and provided job opportunities to ensure that they do not shift to Sindh. He was making a statement on a notice by Syed Navid Qamar of PDA [People's Democratic Alliance] regarding the bringing of stranded Pakistani families from Bangladesh to Pakistan. He said that in all, 40,208 families comprising 240,000 people would be brought to Pakistan. He said these people would be given houses, but they would not be able to sell them and shift to other places. A number of PDA members wanted legal guarantees to ensure that these people would not go to Karachi. The house has now adjourned to meet again tomorrow morning.

Bill Proposes Death Penalty for Drug Traffickers

BK1401150093 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 14 Jan 93

[Text] A bill providing a maximum of capital punishment for drug trafficking was introduced in the National Assembly today. The Dangerous Drugs Amendment Bill 1993 further amends the Dangerous Drugs Act of 1930. The bill introduced by the federal minister for law and justice, Chaudhary Abdul Ghafoor, is aimed at checking the menace of trafficking of narcotic drugs. The bill seeks to achieve this objective by amending the relevant provision of dangerous drugs act to provide the death penalty and also to enhance the minimum punishment of imprisonment.

The house also adopted the Banking Tribunals Bill 1992. Speaking on an adjournment motion sought to be moved by some opposition members, the federal minister for industries, Sheikh Rashid Ahmed, assured the house that the government is keeping constant watch on the price of cement, which would be stabilized soon. He said the government has withdrawn import duty on cement and 300,000 tons are being imported by the private sector, which will ease the situation. He said the cement will be sold at 125 to 130 rupees per bag. Special depots are being set up for provision of cement to consumers. He said since the cement has been put on free list, private sector is importing the cement. He said shortage of cement was caused due to increased demand as a result of heavy rains and floods and closure of three cement

factories for annual maintenance. The motion was rejected by the house. The National Assembly has now adjourned sine die.

Sri Lanka

Muslims Demonstrate Against Strike on Iraq

BK1501112593 Hong Kong AFP in English 1106 GMT 15 Jan 93

[Text] Colombo, Jan 15 (AFP)—Sri Lankan Moslems demonstrated outside the United States Embassy here Friday [15 January] to condemn the U.S.-led allied air attack on Iraq and to express support for Baghdad, witnesses said.

Between 75 to 100 Moslems gathered outside the embassy chanting anti-American and anti-United Nations slogans after attending Friday prayers at a nearby mosque, witnesses said.

The protestors carried placards demanding "Hands Off Iraq" and which charged "the UN is the Servant of America" before police squads dispersed them peacefully. Other placards referred to "UN double-standards."

The United States, Britain and France carried out an aerial bombardment of military facilities in southern Iraq Wednesday in response to what they said were Baghdad's repeated refusal to abide by UN Security Council resolutions.

Sri Lanka's tiny Moslem community staged frequent demonstrations against the United States during the Gulf War between a U.S.-led international coalition and Iraq in 1991.

The Sri Lankan Government kept a low profile but said it would honour UN sanctions against Iraq and forfeited millions of dollars worth of tea sales as a result of the sanctions.